

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 10

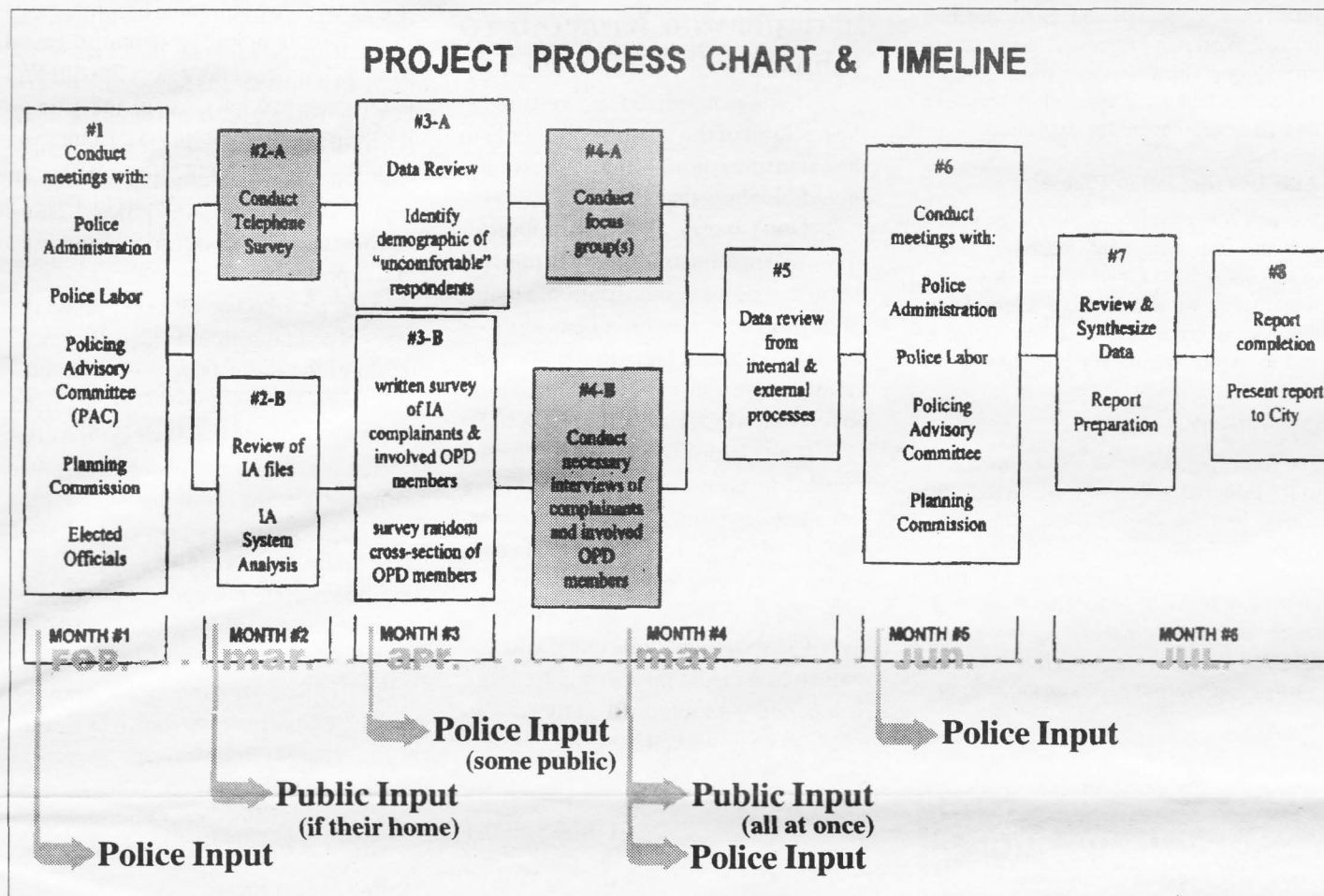
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

FEBRUARY 2000

"When the Wobblies came, the sheriff says, 'Don't you come no further. Who the hells yer leader anyhow? Who's yer leader?!' And them Wobblies yelled right back, 'We don't have a leader. We're all leaders.' And they kept right on comin'." Nevada Worker by C. Wright Mills

Olympia Police to Undergo Accountability Study

by Pat Tassoni



Two police officers have been approved by the Olympia City Council to move forward with their plan at assessing the Olympia Police Department's accountability system. In 1998, the city council set aside \$15,000 to do such a study. Their request for proposals resulted in one possible study — the one submitted by Mulkiteo's Former Police Chief and a Redmond Police Commander. It has been a slow process and one with less than promising results. Imagine two police officers conducting a study to improve police accountability to the public!

Currently, a citizen with a complaint has to fill out a city employee performance form, which are available at all city buildings. Or a citizen can complain to the police department or city manager's office. From there, an police officer will review the statement and contact the citizen for further questioning. The police then investigate the complaint against the police officer — the nature of the complaint, the specific results of the investigation, or the discipline of the officer is never made known to the public, including the citizen who complained. It has been said that the kind of police accountability system Olympia has is like the fox watching the hen house. What can we expect from the two foxes redesigning the hen house with this study?

Since the city is moving forward with this study, it will need citizen input and participation to show anything meaningful. The study already closely involves the members of the OPD both at the beginning and at the end of the process. If you have filed a complaint against the police in the recent past, you can expect to be contacted for this study. If you have not been contacted by the 3rd or 4th month (April or May) you should contact them and let them know you want to be interviewed.

If you haven't filed a complaint, but have some thoughts about police accountability, involve yourself in the focus group interviews in the fourth month. Become an active citizen and recount inappropriate incidents that you have suffered or witnessed at the hands of the police. Be prepared to speak about such events at the upcoming focus groups. Find reasons for why you didn't file a complaint and bring suggestions for how to improve the complaint process and police accountability. If you haven't witnessed or suffered anything firsthand, ask yourself if it makes sense for police institutions to be accountable to the public. Should the recent police violence in New York, Los Angeles, and Seattle be acceptable? And then further ask yourself: should the Olympia police be exempt from the same public accountability processes we wish to see in those other cities?

If you are interested in organizing around this issue, contact CopWatch via Work In Progress at 705-2726. ♦

Praise for WROC

Frank Hoffman

On a windy, blue sky, chilly Saturday in January, I went to a legislative training for people in the Washington Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition. It was held in an auditorium at Highline Community College in Des Moines, south of Seattle.

There were maybe 40 women, 3 guys and 15 children in the auditorium when I got there. The Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC) is composed primarily of single mothers with small children receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (what, before the so-called welfare reform, was called public assistance). I belong to the Olympia group of WROC, whose main headquarters are in Seattle.

People ask me why I belong to a group for mothers. I occasionally ask myself this. One reason is Monica Peabody, the lead WROC organizer in Olympia. She has a way of honoring people. Another reason is that the women belonging to WROC are low income people - poor people. There are not very many organizations of the poor in this country. The poor are either ignored or despised. Welfare reform itself seems based on the premise of doing away with the poor, as if the legislators in this state

and the Congress are declaring that poverty won't be tolerated. As if the poor invented poverty and promote it for some mysterious reason, and the suited white men in charge are not going to tolerate this anymore. This view makes me angry.

If you don't have enough money, you are poor, as ex-president Grover Cleveland would say. You may not un-

knowledge, is also part of their daily stress.

What impressed me at the training in Des Moines was the ability of most of the women there to laugh and have a good time, despite the stress I've tried to describe. I felt the women to be really trying, probably all the time, to be strong for their kids, to stay sane and independent; and to still be vulnerable enough to

Welfare reform is an intolerance of mothers, of women who are single parents. It forces mothers out of the home into low rung jobs.

derstand the meaning of stress unless you are a low income single mother of small children who works outside the home and maybe goes to school, in order to escape poverty, on top of that. Any one of those roles is enough by itself - poor person, single parent, worker or student. Combine them and you know stress.

A person has to be strong, day in and day out, to survive this stress, and not be overwhelmed by it. One more thing. Welfare reform is an intolerance of mothers, of women who are single parents. It forces mothers out of the home into low rung jobs. And I wonder if this fact, this

be seen as likeable, and to appear unstressed and safe to their DSHS caseworkers and their children's teachers. To not feel sorry for themselves, to not despair. To hold onto the hope that some day life will be easier. Someday they'll be able to walk into a department store and buy new coats for their children. Someday the burden of poverty will be removed by their own strength and goodness. And for right now, on this clear winter day, it's o.k. to laugh and goof and be silly. To smile at all the children playing together. And gain strength from each other. ♦

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@olywa.net

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Jerome Johnson	Sylvia Smith
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Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Seattle Cops were out to get Greeners

"... Men with long hair were lifted off the ground... dangling and writhing in pain..." WIP, Jan. 2000, p. 1

Make the connection:

1. Mumia Abu-Jamal at TESC graduation
2. TESC workshop on WTO
3. TESC students attending Seattle demonstrations as "educational experience"
4. Police Brutality.

Tiger

In response to Jerome Johnson's "WTO week"

1. If you're surprised and gratified at the restraint of the Seattle police only to the extent they didn't kill anyone, what is incredible about that?

2. Don't worry about disruption of important demonstrations by Bruts, was this a civil rights demonstration, a major labor protest or rebellion coming from the roots which includes those who send a message we won't just hold signs about boycotting NIKE-- we'll destroy NIKE?

3. If you hadn't been guilt ridden and chained to your desk, you could have recruited for your team of super marshals from the group that beat up people claiming property from corporate stores.

4. If a "screwy agenda" to fight authority is so spoiled, how come you and mainstream media give so much energy to separate yourselves from those who refuse to be governed by anyone -- be it peace cops or WTO?

Harry Roberts

Reply to Jerome Johnson

When we began writing a response we didn't know where to start. Mr. Johnson's article is so full of factual inaccuracies, name-calling and general lack of knowledge about the WTO events.

According to Mr. Johnson's article, he wasn't present at any of the anti-WTO activities or he might have a clue about what was going on. "I wish I'd been there," he says. We wish he had been there as well so he could have seen what really happened.

Mr. Johnson refers to the Seattle protests merely as "a labor protest." Was he

completely unaware of the tens of thousands of students, youth, indigenous peoples, unemployed, environmentalists, senior citizens and many others who were there not just to highlight labor issues but to resist global capitalism and the effects that it has on all aspects of our lives including our food, health, education, environment, human rights and yes, also labor but not by any means limited to that.

Mr. Johnson's sole source of information on the protests (at least at the time he wrote his article) seems to have been the corporate media, in particular, the radio. It sounds as if he believed everything that he heard as he repeats several lies, phrases and concepts that the capitalist media was touting. One example was that, as Mr. Johnson phrased it, "thank God, no one was killed." There were actually two miscarriages reported due to police brutality.

Anyone who has even skimmed the mass of print, audio and video documentation of the protests, or who was actually there knows that the police used chemical weapons, rubber bullets, batons, concussion grenades and other forms of torture on thousands of protestors, passersby, shoppers, merchants, WTO delegates, members of the Press and the Seattle City Council and basically anyone who got in their way or happened to be around in downtown Seattle and the Capitol Hill neighborhood. This must be the "incredible restraint shown by Seattle police" that Mr. Johnson was "surprised and gratified by." Who were the real "black-clad agitators provoking violence" as Mr. Johnson referred to people who engaged in property destruction.

"This is not the first time a civil rights demonstration has been disrupted by violent 'anarchists'" We are very confused as to what Mr. Johnson is talking about. Perhaps he would like to elaborate or be a little more specific rather than using vague references such as these to slander those he disagrees with.

He says of those who destroyed property: "They have no concern except advancing their own violence, and could [sic] really care less about the Makah culture, WTO and workers around the

(Continued page 15)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
Friday, Feb. 18th

Proofreading Meeting
Monday, February 21st
6:30pm at TBA
Everyone Welcome!

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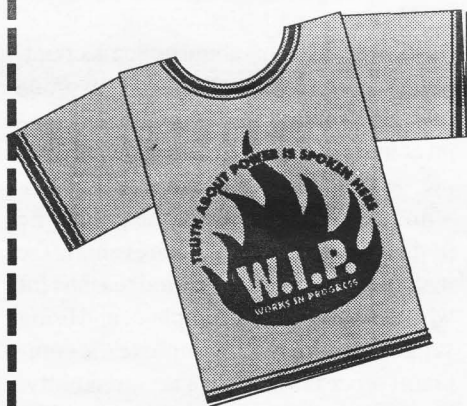
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FEBRUARY 2000

Love is ...

- Trust
- Open communication
- Sharing
- Compromising
- Recognizing differences
- Openness

- Respect
- Shared decision-making
- Mutually agreed-upon intimacy
- Taking responsibility for one's own actions

Love is not ...

- Bullying
- Jealousy
- Humiliation
- Pressured intimacy
- Possessiveness

- Intimidation
- Fear
- Manipulation
- Blaming someone else for your actions

Source: Creating Healthy Relationships produced by King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
love longs to touch the ordinary places— momentary what-nots scattered through the years from dresser drawer to china closet and way up high on the linen closet shelf. Carol Lee Sanchez		1 1775: Parliament re- jects plan to recognize Continental Congress 1979: Patty Hearst re- leased after Pres. Carter commutes sentence	2 1999: Anti-choice de- fendants ordered to pay 107 million for Web site listing names and ad- dresses of "baby butch- ers"	3 1999: Capital Bicycling members meet w/ po- lice addressing con- cerns that police aren't taking adequate action" against motorists	4 1974: Patty Hearst kid- napped by SLA 1999: Olympia bicy- clist in critical condi- tion after being hit by a pickup truck	5 1999: Talks between American Airlines/pi- lots breaks down; pilots refuse overtime; 1,000+ flights can- celled over next 3 days
6 1961: Jail-in move- ment starts in Rock Hill, SC 1999: American Airlines pilots begin sick-out	7 1904: Mine guards kill 4, wound 3 in labor dis- pute in Tennessee 1964: NY: Beatles land 1999: King Hussein of Jordan dies	8 1913: British suffrag- ettes destroy London- Glasgow phone line 1999: World leaders attend King Hussein's funeral	9 1905: Russian troops kill 150 workers at Nifka mine, Poland 1999: Miller Brewing Co will purchase Olympia Brewery	10 1930: Chicago bootleg- ging operation closed; 158 arrested 1999: Federal judge or- ders American Airlines pilot to end sick-out	11 1999: Olympia: Kaiser Aluminum workers protest use of scabs 1999: American Air- lines pilots ignore judge's order	12 1999: Clinton acquit- ted of all charges 1999: American Air- lines asks judge to fine pilots for not ending sick-out
13 1999: Federal judge fines pilots 1999: Clinton ready to send 4,000 troops to Kosovo as part of NATO force	14 1996: TESC students protest arming of cam- pus security 1996: 12 tree-sitters protest logging of Dosewallips watershed	15 1998: John McCain says it's time for Clinton to set deadline for Saddam Hussein to back down or face US military might	16 1760: Native hostages held by South Carolina Governor Lyttleton are slain in retaliation for renewed raids of the Cherokees	17 1996: Peaceful rally held in Jefferson Co. protesting the sale and logging of the 55 acre in the Dosewallips River drainage area	18 1995: NAACP ap- points Ms Myrlie Evers-Williams as its chairperson, the first woman to head the NAACP	19 1998: 2 men charged with possessing the deadly germ anthrax for use as a weapon (they were later cleared of the charge)
20 1869: Tennessee Gov. Brownlow declared martial law in 9 coun- ties in KKK crisis 1905: AL: Explosion entombs 100 miners	21 1965: Malcom X is slain as he is preparing to address an audience 1998: Associated Min- istries sponsors forum on welfare reform	22 1897: Black postmaster is lynched and his wife and three daughters are shot and maimed for life in Lake City, South Carolina	23 1995: 6,000 blue-collar workers rally on the Capitol Campus to pro- test Senate "attempts to roll back the prevailing wage."	24 1995: US Fish and Wildlife Service pro- pose to protect Western snowy plover's nesting sites along 10% of the West Coast	25 1839: Seminoles and black allies shipped to the West 1964: Clay Cassius wins world heavy- weight championship	26 1870: Wyatt Outlaw, black leader of Union League in NC lynched 1872: Charlotte E. Ray, 1st black woman lawyer graduates
27 1973: Close to 300 members of the militant American Indian Movement (AIM) take over Wounded Knee, South Dakota	28 1902: 1,000 miners buried in avalanche 1898: Supreme Court holds valid Utah statue limiting miners daily hours to 8	29 1960: White House re- ports that US children are getting too fat 1984: Canadian PM Pierre Trudeau an- nounces resignation	"...I do not expect or want you to be otherwise than you are, I love you for the good that is in you, and look for no further change." Mary Ann Lamb		JANUARY S M T W T F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Along the Color Line

The Ku Klux Klan: From Greensboro to New York City

Dr. Manning Marable

Twenty years ago, on November 3, 1979, five principled and dedicated activists for social justice - Cesar Cauce, Dr. Mike Nathan, Bill Sampson, Sandi Smith, and Dr. Jim Waller - were brutally murdered in Greensboro, North Carolina by the Ku Klux Klan. History has recorded this tragedy as the "Greensboro Massacre."

These five anti-racist organizers and ten other activists who were seriously wounded had been participating in an anti-Klan public march and demonstration, held in a largely African-American community. In broad daylight, a car caravan containing about seventy-five Klansmen and Nazis descended on the public rally. For about ninety seconds, they opened fire on the unarmed demonstrators, and then drove from the scene of the crime.

Local police had been given ample warning about the threat of Klan violence, but had chosen to do nothing to protect the demonstrators. There was also direct evidence indicating that law enforcement officials gave the Klan the exact location and route of the march, several days prior to their attack.

The Greensboro Justice Fund, a non-profit organization, was established in 1980 to finance a civil rights suit against the killers, and to educate the general public about the outrageous violation of human rights. Television videotaped recordings of the massacre indicated that the killings had occurred coldly and methodically, with the Klansmen and Nazis actually looking for and identifying individuals to murder. Six murderers were eventually tried, and an all-white jury acquitted the racists. After years of legal struggles, a successful civil suit was won by the victims and survivors of the massacre.

Today, the Greensboro Justice Fund provides tens of thousands of dollars in financial support to dozens of social justice organizations throughout the United States. In 1998 alone, the Fund contributed to twenty-four groups, such as the Citizens for Police Review in Knoxville, Tennessee, for their work against police brutality in that city; to the Black Workers for Justice in North Carolina; to anti-Klan organizers in Gainesville, Georgia; and to a Youth Task Force in Atlanta, for general support of anti-racist education among students and young adults.

For those who still think of the Ku Klux Klan as a marginal fringe group, consider what happened in September in New York City. Leaders of the Church of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, estimated to be the fastest-growing Klan faction in the country, sought to stage a rally in New York City. The Klansmen announced plans to wear their traditional white hoods and robes, masking their identities. Despite an 1845 New York State law prohibiting demonstrators from wearing masks, two Federal District Court Judges ordered city officials to allow the Klan to march through the city streets, wearing their hoods to

protect their anonymity.

The Klan's legal battle was led by the New York Civil Liberties Union, which argued that despite the racial hatred and long history of violence by this organization, that it nevertheless had a Constitutional right to freedom of assembly and expression. A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit unanimously disagreed, overruling the lower court. A last minute appeal on the Klan's behalf to the Supreme Court was denied by Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Progressives in New York were divided over the issue of whether the Klan, as a white supremacist and terrorist

organization, should be granted the right to publicly demonstrate. Al Sharpton and the National Action Network, as well as Conrad Muhammad, former head of the Nation of Islam's Temple No. Seven in Harlem, supported the right for the Klan to demonstrate.

Over three thousand police officers had been ordered into Harlem to intimidate and disrupt the 1998 Million Youth March, but only 200 cops were detailed to the Klan demonstration, primarily to insure the safety and welfare of the Klansmen.

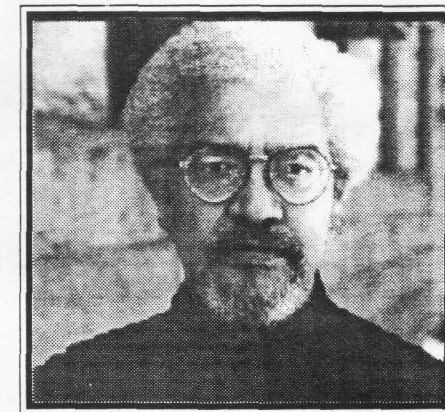
Despite these differences over the issue of civil liberties, all progressives agreed that the Klan should be confronted and denounced by united action. On the day of the demonstration, only 18 Klan members showed up in lower Man-

hattan - and they were challenged by thousands of anti-racist demonstrators. New York police estimated the anti-Klan protesters at 6,000, although most observers placed the crowd at over ten thousand.

While the NYPD protected the

Klansmen, fourteen anti-Klan demonstrators were arrested by police. Many observed that it was more than curious that over three thousand police officers had been ordered into Harlem to intimidate and disrupt the 1998 Million Youth March, but only 200 cops were detailed to the Klan demonstration, primarily to insure the safety and welfare of the Klansmen. Instead of Klan executions, we have witnessed the assault and murder of unarmed black people by the New York Police Street Crimes Unit. There is

happened in Greensboro with the murder of Amadou Diallo. It is not surprising that a number of counter-demonstrators in New York shouted, "Cops and Klan go hand in hand!" Yet the destruction of white supremacy will require more than simply pushing back the Klan off our streets today.



The fight against racism also requires us to learn the lessons and to honor the sacrifices of those who died in Greensboro two decades ago. It means taking the initiative to stop racial profiling and harassment by the police. It also means that we must rededicate ourselves to the struggle to remove from public life those politicians and government officials like New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who may wear business suits, but who pursue Klan-like objectives through their public policies.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge and regularly appears in over 325 black and progressive publications worldwide. ♦

The Martin Luther King You Don't See on TV

**Jeff Cohen
and Norman Solomon**

It's become a TV ritual: Every year in mid-January, around the time of Martin Luther King's birthday, we get perfunctory network news reports about "the slain civil rights leader." The remarkable thing about this annual review of King's life is that several years — his last years — are totally missing, as if flushed down a memory hole.

What TV viewers see is a closed loop of familiar file footage: King battling desegregation in Birmingham (1963); reciting his dream of racial harmony at the rally in Washington (1963); marching for voting rights in Selma, Alabama (1965); and finally, lying dead on the motel balcony in Memphis (1968). An alert viewer might notice that the chronology jumps from 1965 to 1968. Yet King didn't take a sabbatical near the end of his life.

In fact, he was speaking and organizing as diligently as ever. Almost all of those speeches were filmed or taped. But they're not shown today on TV. Why?

It's because national news media have never come to terms with what Martin Luther King Jr. stood for during his final years.

In the early 1960s, when King focused his challenge on legalized racial discrimination in the South, most major media were his allies. Network TV and

national publications graphically showed the police dogs and bullwhips and cattle prods used against Southern blacks who sought the right to vote or to eat at a public lunch counter.

But after passage of civil rights acts in 1964 and 1965, King began challenging the nation's fundamental priorities. He maintained that civil rights laws were empty without "human rights" — including economic rights. For people too poor to eat at a restaurant or afford a decent home, King said, anti-discrimination laws were hollow.

Noting that a majority of Americans below the poverty line were white, King developed a class perspective. He decried the huge income gaps between rich

and poor, and called for "radical changes in the structure of our society" to redistribute wealth and power.

True compassion," King declared, "is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

By 1967, King had also become the country's most prominent opponent of the Vietnam War, and a staunch critic of overall U.S. foreign policy, which he deemed militaristic. In his "Beyond Viet-

nam" speech delivered at New York's Riverside Church on April 4, 1967 — a year to the day before he was murdered — King called the United States "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today."

From Vietnam to South Africa to Latin America, King said, the U.S. was "on the wrong side of a world revolution." King questioned "our alliance with the landed gentry of Latin America," and asked why the U.S. was suppressing revolutions "of the shirtless and barefoot people" in the Third World, instead of supporting them.

In foreign policy, King also offered an economic critique, complaining about "capitalists of the West investing huge

For people too poor to eat at a restaurant or afford a decent home, King said, anti-discrimination laws were hollow.

sums of money in Asia, Africa and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries." You haven't heard the "Beyond Vietnam" speech on network news retrospectives, but national media heard it loud and clear back in 1967 — and loudly denounced it.

Time magazine called it "demagogic slander that sounded like a script for Radio Hanoi." The Washington Post

(Continued next page)

Up Front

Showing the Confederate Flag

Jerome Johnson

Once again, the Confederate battle flag is a mainstream issue.

Of course, if you're a person of color, or Jewish, the Confederate flag is a lifetime issue. That's because whenever we see it, we know that hate—and very likely violence—are not far away. Like the Nazi swastika, we teach our children to recognize it at an early age, for their self-defense. Like the Nazi swastika, it represents tyranny and genocide on an international scale. And like the Nazi swastika, the Confederate flag is held high and revered by every Nazi, Klansman, Aryan Brother and every other racist in the country.

Although other states—notably Georgia and Mississippi—use the flag as part of their overall state flag, the controversy nowadays is focused on South Carolina. One reason for that is the economic boycott of South Carolina, begun last summer by the NAACP when the state refused to take down the Confederate flag flying on top of the state capitol. More recently presidential candidates have been asked about it during the campaign, as a states' rights issue, and their responses are very interesting.

Faced with the question during a debate, to their credit, both Bill Bradley and Al Gore tried to out-do each other condemning not only the flag but the

bigotry that it stands for. This is interesting because in Gore's home state, Tennessee, the Confederate flag is everywhere—on license plates, keychains, T-shirts, you name it. Whether you're at a city mall or a freeway tourist trap, you can buy the Confederate flag in some form. I know, because I've been to Tennessee.

Like Bradley, Gore deserves praise for his forthrightness. Probably rightly, he gambled that the traditional Democratic voters would out-number, out-contribute and out-vote the so-called Bubba vote, the bloc of white blue- and white-collar Southern men. Although there was some degree of political risk, both Bradley and especially Gore know that Bubba figures them for liberals any-

If you're a person of color, or Jewish, the Confederate flag is a lifetime issue. That's because whenever we see it, we know that hate—and very likely violence—are not far away.

way, and would appreciate their candor. They'd pick up the grateful votes of Jews, people of color and other progressives, who, faced with the current candidates, would rather have a lukewarm liberal than a "compassionate" conservative.

When asked about the flag, George W. Bush—who may be known as Dubya in this column from now on—took an evasive leaf from his dad's playbook. He maintains the issue "is for South Carolinians to decide for themselves."

John McCain, who bills himself as the Straight Talk—Like It Or Not candidate, couldn't find a straight answer to this question. When first asked, he said the flag was a "symbol of tragedy and division." When conservative Republicans—whose votes McCain badly needs—howled at this mild rebuke, he changed his tune and, like Dubya, said "the matter is for the people of South Carolina to decide." This time he took flak for waffling, and McCain saw the serious damage to his credibility. Not only had he blown his first big chance for Straight Talk Like It Or Not, he lost conservative voters who don't think he's strong enough on the issue of states' rights. At last he caved in to the Confederates totally, calling the flag a "symbol of heritage," just like they do.

Of course, we know what the code words "heritage" and "states' rights" mean. Southerners and other Confederates always claim those terms when they're fighting to preserve racism, sexism and other legacies of the Old South. When flying the Confederate flag, it means a culture of open bigotry and its violence against people of color; legal slavery known as sharecropping, abysmal schools (if any) and prison cells bulging with people of color while major Southern colleges and universities remain predominantly white. It means a low glass ceiling in the workplace, and then tokenism.

"States' rights" is why the Civil War was fought. Ever since the Revolution, southern states have insisted on the states' right to govern themselves as much as possible, with only minimal cooperation

and coordination with the central Federal government. Until the Civil War, the main issue was the Southern states' insistence that slavery—like interstate commerce—was a policy for the individual states to decide on for themselves, without meddling from Washington. If state governments, mandated by their citizens, decide that slavery (and later, Jim Crow laws) is all right for them, then Washington should shut up and leave them alone. If states decide they don't want slavery, well, that's their business.

The only thing that hurt the South worse than losing its slaves—and the soft life it gave rich whites—was state governments losing their "right" to oppress people any way they pleased. That's why Federal troops had to be called in to enforce civil rights laws during the '50s and '60s. Southerners elected the Emperor Reagan because not only did he create an atmosphere that encouraged and engendered bigotry, he endorsed the states' rights to do so too, beginning



AND he got the conservative vote AND slyly endorsed states' rights without actually doing so. Compassionate conservatism at its best—I'm sure his dad was proud.

As for McCain, he just kicked himself in the ballot box.

Oh, and by the way—both Texas and Arizona were Confederate Territories during the Civil War. If the South had won, they would have become Confederate states.

In Cuba, a nation's mothers demonstrate for the return of Elian Gonzales to his father.

In Britain, gays and lesbians—at last—have the privilege to openly serve in the Royal Armed Forces without official constraints.

In New York, Nelson Mandela works to save Burundi from self-immolation.

And in Thurston County, to the wonder of those who were kids during the '60s, Dr. Martin Luther King's life is joyously studied and celebrated by schoolchildren as well as everyone. ♦

(MLK, continued)

patronized that "King has diminished his usefulness to his cause, his country, his people."

In his last months, King was organizing the most militant project of his life: the Poor People's Campaign. He crisscrossed the country to assemble "a multiracial army of the poor" that would descend on Washington—engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at the Capitol, if need be—until Congress enacted a poor people's bill of rights. Reader's Digest warned of an "insurrection."

King's economic bill of rights called for massive government jobs programs to rebuild America's cities. He saw a crying need to confront a Congress that had demonstrated its "hostility to the poor"—appropriating "military funds with alacrity and generosity," but providing "poverty funds with miserliness." How familiar that sounds today, more than a quarter-century after King's efforts on behalf of the poor people's mobilization were cut short by an assassin's bullet.

As 1995 gets underway, in this nation of immense wealth, the White House and Congress continue to accept the perpetuation of poverty. And so do most mass media. Perhaps it's no surprise that they tell us little about the last years of Martin Luther King's life.

Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon are syndicated columnists and authors of Adventures in Medialand: Behind the News, Beyond the Pundits (Common Courage Press). For the full text of King's "Beyond Vietnam" see <http://www.uvm.edu/~wmiller/mlkbeyondvietnam.htm> ♦

The Death of Ben Linder: The Story of a North American in Sandinista Nicaragua

A new book by Joan Kruckewitt

Journalist Joan Kruckewitt paints a portrait of Ben Linder, an engineer and clown from Portland, Oregon, who offered his skills in support of the revolutionary Sandinista government.

[The book incorporates top secret CIA documents and interviews with the Contras that reveal who killed Ben and why.

"This poignant and gripping tale ... presents the life, the triumph, and the tragic fate of a wonderful human being ... it offers some hope for a better future for people who have suffered so bitterly."

—Noam Chomsky

400 pages, \$24.95

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Wednesday, Feb. 9th
Evergreen State College
Library Lobby, 12:30
Traditions/Fair Trade
7:00 pm

A talk by
Joan Kruckewitt, author
The Death of Ben Linder

Sponsored by: Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association (TSTCA). For more information call (360) 943-8642.



Film Review: The "Hurricane"

Ron Jacobs

The Hurricane is the story of boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter's 1966 arrest, false conviction and subsequent imprisonment on triple murder charges, and the decades long struggle to free him and the other man falsely convicted and sent up with Carter (John Artis). Carter grew up in a working-class family in Paterson, New Jersey. When he was eleven, he stabbed a white man who was making sexual advances to his friends and ended up in a reformatory. He escaped from the reformatory eight years later after being denied his release despite a good behavior record. He then joined the service and began boxing. His boxing instructor also gave Carter an interest in Islam, books and intellectual

waged by a young African-American man schooled by and living with three Canadians. This was after the mass movement of the mid-1970s to free Hurricane (perhaps best symbolized by Bob Dylan's song "Hurricane") had faltered. The young man, named Lezra Martin, picked up Hurricane's autobiography *The Sixteenth Round* at a used book sale and can not put the book down. He begins correspondence with Carter and eventually convinces his guardians of Carter's innocence. The four move to New Jersey and began a long investigation that eventually results in Carter's freedom.

The film occasionally teeters toward the presentation of justice in these United States as ultimately fair, but the facts of Carter's case make it impossible for Hollywood to pull off such an endeavor.

charges, this policeman is the slave master telling all African-Americans that they still owe time.

Although there are a number of great performances here, this film is Denzel Washington's. His portrayal of Hurricane Carter captures the pure emotion of the story without shortchanging the political and ethical aspects. In essence, Washington becomes Carter for the duration of the film. Carter's story is an ugly tale of racism and oppression yet the movie is a work of beauty.

However, the "Hurricane" is more than the story of a man's oppression. It is also the tale of how a human can resist that oppression—an oppression that is greater yet more petty than any individual. It is the story of the hope of youth and the naivete from which that hope springs. Of course, as an individual who does what he can in the struggle to obtain a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal and others unjustly in prison, it was impossible not to draw parallels between the story of Hurricane and the tales of those currently wrongly imprisoned. This makes Hurricane's story even more important. It is a story that needs to be told and re-told until all those who have been falsely imprisoned are released. ♦

It is a story that needs to be told and re-told until all those who have been falsely imprisoned are released.

learning. After his enlistment was up, Carter returned to Paterson, found work and lived a relatively quiet life until he was arrested on charges stemming from his escape from the reformatory. He was sent back to prison and began to train as a boxer in earnest. Upon his release, he began to box professionally and stunned the boxing world with his power and speed, quickly racking up a number of impressive victories.

He also began to acquire enemies because of his statements supporting the civil rights movement and black liberation movements. It was Carter's belief from the beginning that these statements played a role in certain boxing decisions that went against him despite an overwhelming consensus that he had won these fights and were primary motivations in his arrest and conviction on the murder charges.

The film is not just the story of Carter, however. It is also the story of the struggle that eventually freed him. It was a battle

Rubin's eventual freedom after almost twenty years proves the exception, not the rule. This is where the much criticized character of the corrupt, racist cop comes in.

The film has been criticized for its fictionalizing of Carter's story with some critics observing that the story is powerful enough without fictionalization. While this is certainly true, it is this viewer's perception that the fictionalization plays an essential role in the movie's politics. Specifically, the script has been criticized for its enhancement of the role this policeman played in Carter's life even though he is not, as some have suggested, entirely fictional. This character is not meant to be perceived literally. His presence in the film is metaphorical. He represents the American system of justice and the role it plays in oppressing Black people in this country. When this cop tells Carter that Hurricane still owes him time after arresting him on the aforementioned escape

Alliance for Public Transportation

by Mitchell Chanin

Since Intercity Transit announced it would cut more than 40% of its service at the end of February, people who need or support Olympia's public transportation system have been working to convince the state legislature to use part of the budget surplus to provide emergency short-term funding. The passage of I-695 means that transit agencies around the state are facing enormous budget cuts. We ask that transit funding be restored without taking away funding from other needed program and without increasing regressive taxes, which disproportionately affect low-income people.

In the process of talking about how to deal with the immediate crisis that we're facing, we've been building up a common vision of public transportation as an essential part of the community. Public transportation is critical to the well-being of people who cannot drive or cannot afford to drive; it provides an alternative to the stress, expense, isolation, and wastefulness of driving; and it is vital to the health of the environment. We've formed a new community group, the Alliance for Public Transportation, to bring people together over the long term to talk about our needs and hopes and to preserve and expand transit. We plan to address the serious lack of state funding for essential programs that has existed in Washington for many years and that I-695 has made much worse.

On Monday, January 10th, the opening day of the legislative session and the first snowy day of the winter, around 300 people from the Olympia area and from around western Washington gathered at the Capitol to rally, to march, and to meet with legislators to insist that the legislature restore funding for transit. Low-wage workers, disability rights activists, college and high school students, bus drivers, senior citizens, environmental activists, and (people from many different backgrounds) made it to rally; people who were concerned about the transit cuts but who couldn't make it called their legislators that morning. We held a briefing at United Churches on what's happened to public transit as a result of I-695 in the morning, and then walked to the Capitol for a noon rally. A group of thirty of us marched after everyone else had arrived, carrying hand-painted signs and chanting, "Who rides the bus? Us! Us! Us! Don't make the cuts - Make a fuss!", and as we approached the larger group, we were greeted by a joyful cheer. We sang, chanted, and listened to several speakers, among them disability rights activists and Governor Locke, as they talked about the importance of transit and the need for emergency funding. About 40 of us then marched ten blocks to the Olympia Transit Center, taking over the streets, and returnees from the march joined the rest of us in meeting with our legislators. So many of us wanted to meet with Cathy Wolfe and Sandra Romero, legislators from Olympia, that the meeting had to be held in the House Gallery, the largest room that was available. The rally grew out of an extensive education and organizing process.

We've been distributing fliers and circulating petitions everywhere we can; speaking at public events, on TCTV and on the radio; organizing public forums, meetings, and vigils, and coordinating with organizations around the state. We plan to continue this work beyond the legislative session, creating opportunities for people to define how they want their community to be and to work together to make the changes they need. You can find a listing of upcoming events along with contact information in this issue of WIP.

In 1973, KAOS began as a bold experiment in broadcasting. Since that time, we have grown into the South Sound's listener-supported community radio station. Now more than ever, we at KAOS are committed to:

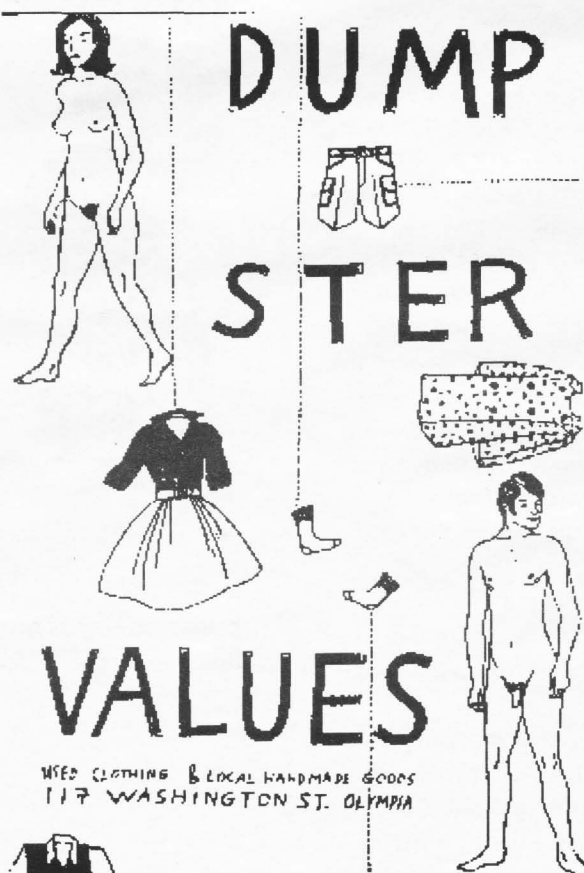
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Navajo, Hopi and feds announce no forced removal on Feb. 1 Big Mountain: 'Never surrender'

Brenda Norrell

BIG MOUNTAIN - Navajos resisting relocation are preparing for a Pipe ceremony and testimony before a delegation from European Parliaments. The meeting will take place at Camp Anna Mae on Big Mountain just a week before a federal Feb. 1 deadline for the Hopi Tribe to take control of Navajo approaches.

Vowing to resist removal, Louise Benally said the sacredness of Big Mountain will outlast puppet tribal governments and the greed of corporations seeking to seize the coal-rich land.

"If borders can be redrawn in war zones in the Middle East, they can redraw them here. Big Mountain is a sacred site, regardless of all the politics. We are going to honor this sacred site."

With fears of violence in Arizona, federal and tribal officials released a joint statement saying Navajos would not be forcibly removed Feb. 1.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Lodge in Phoenix said the Hopi Tribe agreed to allow federal courts to rule on evictions, rather than evict Navajos on that day through Hopi Tribal Courts.

Navajo President Kelsey Begaye said he has been assured that U.S. marshals will not evict Navajos on that date.

"There is still the threat of federal eviction and it still remains real," President Begaye said. "It is likely that legal processes will begin (Feb. 1)."

Mellor C. Willie, spokesman for President Begaye, said the Hopi Tribe released a statement saying threats have been made, and the Navajo Nation created an emergency response plan.

Hopi Chairman Wayne Taylor Jr., who signed the joint statement with the Navajo Nation and U.S. Attorney's Office, was unavailable for further comment.

Benally said she does not believe anything that tribal or federal officials say. "I would not trust them because they have lied to us so many times. We do not have any faith in them anymore."

In 1978 Indian spiritual leaders on

the Longest Walk smoked the Sacred Pipe and prayed together for world peace when they reached Washington, D.C. Benally believes the time has come to act on that promise.

"The agreement was made to honor Mother Earth. We all have this in common, the buffalo, tobacco and sweat lodge. We have held the Lakota Sun Dance because of Mother Earth and the hardship of humankind."

At Big Mountain, elders say their lives are a part of the land and the natural forces of the changing seasons, of birth, growth and life. To leave the land is to die.

Benally said the Feb. 1 deadline will be approached like any other day, with prayer and thanksgiving, by those who have refused to sign 75-year lease agreements with the Hopi Tribe.

At Big Mountain, elders say their lives are a part of the land and the natural forces of the changing seasons, of birth, growth and life. To leave the land is to die.

"We will live in our hogans in a humble way, regardless of the terrorism against us. The sun will come up and we will give thanks for the next day and the generations to come."

Meanwhile, Navajo and Hopi tribal leaders have been meeting monthly on a peaceful resolution to the immediate situation.

President Begaye said his "administration continues full support for their right to live on their ancestral land and to practice their religion."

Following meetings with Hopi Chairman Taylor, the Navajo chairman said, "We have learned that if our two great Indian Nations cannot reach agreement, we end up in a political stalemate which hurts both our people and only benefits outsiders."

But, Benally said it is too little too late and tribal officials do not live out on the land.

"We did not create this mess. It is not our deadline. The sun will still rise and



Pauline Whitesinger stands by her Hogan, sacred arrows in hand.

we will still have our lives. We will humbly live in our hogans and give thanks for the next day and generations to come."

Pointing out that coal and water are depleted from Navajo lands for electricity while Navajo live without running water or electricity, Benally said

renewable sources of energy must be sought. Fossil fuels must be replaced with alternative energy sources.

"There is no guarantee that everything will be here forever to abuse and develop toxic waste. In the new millennium, the world needs to bring this into balance."

Living with little food and firewood and constant livestock impoundments, down roads deeply rutted in bad weather, Benally and the elders at Big Mountain remain a voice of hope.

"Only hardship and punishment have resulted from these federal laws. We are still appealing to the world," Benally said. "The United States has forgotten about our human rights, but the international community still cares."

"As long as we know the truth, we will always win."

This is from Indian Country at <http://www.indiancountry.com> ♦

Resist Genocide & Corporate Dominance

10:30am Tuesday, February 1st
Federal Building, Seattle
(2nd and Marion)
Caravans leaving Olympia Value Village parking lot at 8:30am

Candlelight Prayer Vigil
the night before
January 31, 7-9pm
Sylvester Park, Olympia

On February 1st, Dine (Navajo) grandmothers at Big Mountain in Arizona will be threatened with eviction notices by corporate-serving government officials. These traditional elders and their families have lived for centuries atop one of the most enormous and lucrative resources of fossil fuels left in this country. Near Big Mountain is the largest strip-mine in this country, where coal is extracted by the Peabody Coal Company. The energy produced there feeds sprawling and unsustainable development all across the Southwest. In fact, over 3.5 million gallons of water are used EVERYDAY to transport the coal through dirty slurry lines.

Dine families have been resisting relocation for over 25 years. To date, over 14,000 Navajo and Hopi people have been moved into tract-housing in Sanders, New Mexico, next to the Rio Puerco river, which is the site of our nation's largest radioactive spill ever. Since relocation began, Navajo people who have moved to "the new lands" have experienced a 25% death rate to cancer.

The flagrant example of corporate welfare (aided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs) has practically assured the removal of an entire people from their homeland as well as a complete assault against the earth.

Let the powers that be KNOW that we DO NOT support the actions of our government OR the genocidal policies of corporate America!

Please keep in mind that the elders and supporters at Big Mountain are resisting non-violently, and would like for us to do the same. Questions? Call 412-0140.

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PINE RIDGE OCCUPATION

Wild Horse

The Grass Roots Oglala Lakota Oyate (people) have formed a circle around the sacred pipe at the Red Cloud Tribal Building in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

On the January 16, 2000 The Grass Roots Oyate, a group of concerned Oglala Sioux Tribal members did take control of the Red Cloud Tribal Building for the sole purpose of protecting the financial records from further tampering and/or destruction. The people are demanding

The Grass Roots Oyate, a group of concerned Oglala Sioux Tribal members did take control of the Red Cloud Tribal Building for the sole purpose of protecting the financial records from further tampering and/or destruction.

the removal of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Treasurer Wesley "Chuck" Jacobs due to the abuse of power, mismanagement and mishandling of financial monies allocated to the members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

The group has drafted an Abuse of Power complaint against Jacobs. This charge will be submitted to Oglala Sioux Tribal Secretary in accordance with OST court order issued on January 21, 2000.

It is untrue that the people monitoring the Red Cloud Tribal Building are supporters of the Oglala Sioux Tribal President Harold Salway, disgruntled employees, or revenge-seeking politicians who were not re-elected to office; as alleged in a statement by Wesley "Chuck" Jacobs and other OST Council Representatives at an informal meeting at Porcupine, S.D. on January 20, 2000.

The people who are gathered around the sacred pipe at the Red Cloud Tribal Building are respected elders, traditional leaders, headsmen, mothers, fathers, and children. All are concerned that there is an abusive of power occurring in the actions of the OST Treasurer Chuck Jacobs, and that such actions are legitimized by the OST Finance Committee.

The Grass Roots Oyate petition for removal of the OST Treasurer will be presented to the OST Secretary within the next few days. This is the first action that is being asserted as an immediate concern.

Additionally, we will be holding a Tribunal of the Oglala Lakota Nation in the next week to afford individuals an opportunity to give their testimony on their experience regarding allegations of Abuse of Power by the OST Treasurer Chuck Jacobs. This Tribunal has been called by several of the Tribe's traditional treaty elders and chiefs including: Johnson Holy Rock, Guy White Thunder, Joe Swift Bird, Floyd Hand. This testimony will be attached to our petition to remove the OST Treasurer.

The intent of the Grass Roots Oyate is not to inhibit or impede official business by the Oglala Sioux Tribe. An announcement has been made that financial office staff would be allowed to come to work. However, some of the workers expressed

fear of being fired if they do report to work. The mediators from the U.S. Department of Justice is actively seeking written complaints on those that are making threats.

On January 21, 2000, in an attempt to undermine the Grass Roots Oyate, the OST Treasurer and the OST Attorney Marvin Amiotte did demand that all utilities be disconnect in the Red Cloud Tribal Building. Neither Mr. Jacobs, nor Mr. Amiotte are within the scope of their authority to take such actions against the members of this Tribe. At approximately

1:40 a.m. this morning, under court order, the telephone service was restored.

There have been some false reports going out over the Internet that traditional headsmen and spokesperson, Floyd Hand was giving information to various individuals to send out today. However, this release will clarify that Mr. Hand has been on travel status negotiating for the Grass Roots Oyate since January 20th.

Pine Ridge Occupation... Day 9

**At least 12 Shots Fired...
1:07am Mountain Time...
Emergency help needed...**

Please watch for changes as more information is released: <http://members.tripod.com/GrassRootsOyate>

For further information, please contact Floyd Hand or Media Relations Coordinator Dale Looks Twice at (605) 867-5303.

The Grass Roots Oyate wishes to extend their gratitude to many supporters from around the world who have offered support and assistance in many forms. The supporters of the Pine Ridge Occupation People are asking for letters of support from all People. If you support their plight, FAX them at (605) 867-2115. These faxes will be used when they attend Court Appearances to emphasize the support of all people that are unable to attend in person. They are seeking changes in the way things are among the Native peoples. They are wishing to become and be seen as a Sovereign Nation again. They are demonstrating in a peaceful manner and they believe the pen is mightier than the sword. ♦

Message from Leonard Peltier

(dictated by phone)

Dear friends,

The LPDC received a phone call from Rosalyn Jumping Bull yesterday. She is involved in the "take over" of the tribal office on Pine Ridge. She says that this move was lead, for the most part, by elders and they are totally unarmed. She explained that the FEMA trailers which replaced the demolished homes of the recent tornado victims have very thin walls and are difficult to heat. As most of you know, winters on Pine Ridge are harsh, especially when people are not prepared. She said that they had been asking the council for help, but they refused. They said they had no funds. They want to know where the federal and casino monies are going and they want adequate living conditions to be provided to the people. I am asking you to support them in whatever way they request. They are planning to stay in the building until an audit of the tribal funds is obtained. I am disappointed that things have not changed much at Pine Ridge since I have been in prison.

I am told that they need non-perishable food, phone cards, bottled water, blankets, and cigarettes to be sent to them. If you can help, please send support items to

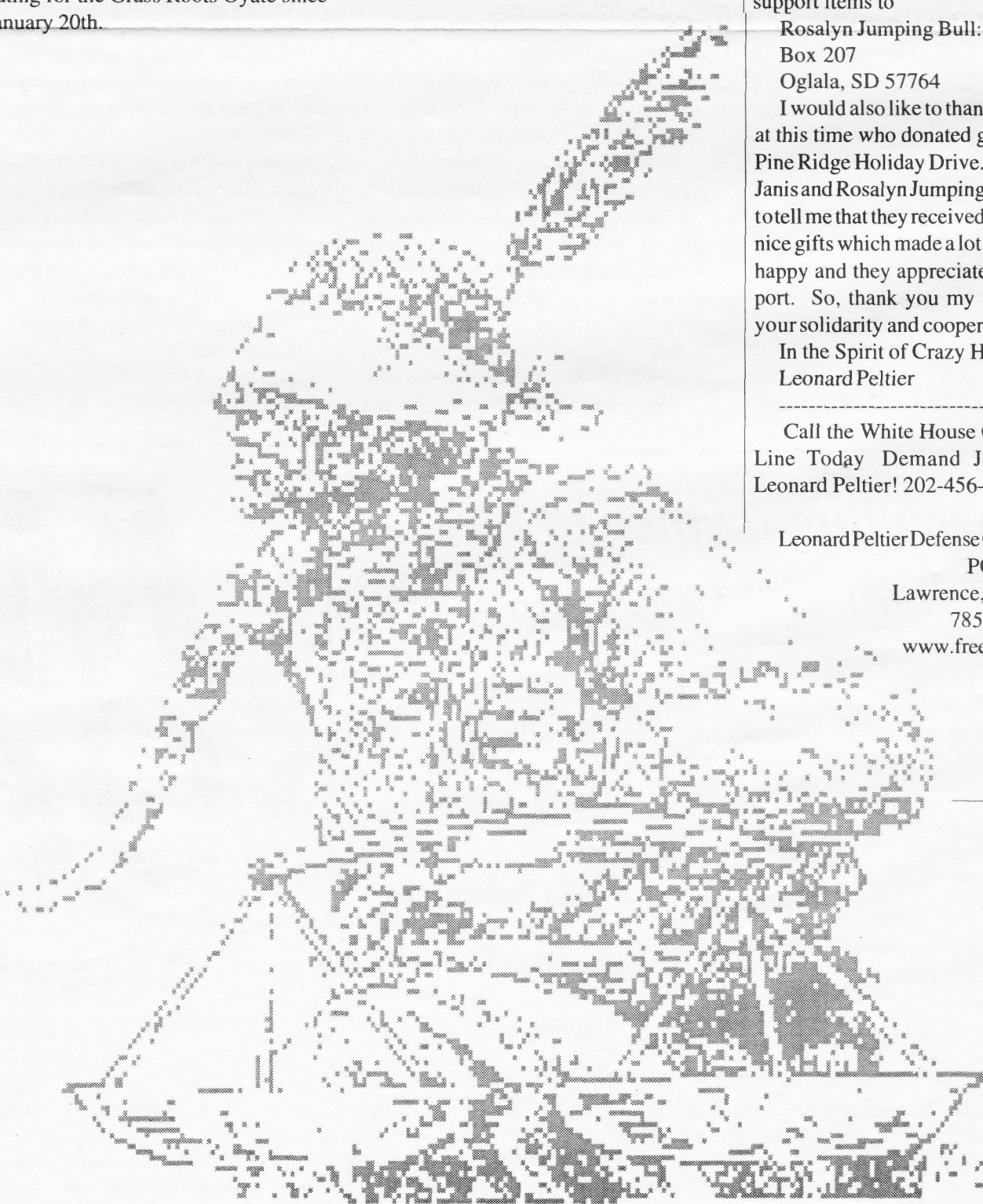
Rosalyn Jumping Bull:
Box 207
Oglala, SD 57764

I would also like to thank everyone at this time who donated gifts for the Pine Ridge Holiday Drive. Geraldine Janis and Rosalyn Jumping Bull wrote to tell me that they received many very nice gifts which made a lot of children happy and they appreciate your support. So, thank you my friends for your solidarity and cooperation.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier

Call the White House Comments Line Today Demand Justice for Leonard Peltier! 202-456-1111

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
PO Box 583
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-842-5774
www.freepeltier.org



LEONARD PELTIER FREEDOM CAMPAIGN CONTINUES!

Make Some Calls - Justice, Do it!

LPDC

I. TELEPHONE CAMPAIGN: We need to crank up our national telephone campaign to a much higher decibel level. Last fall was a very good start, but the pressure has to increase and remain constant, so they know that we are not just around for a little while, and that no one is about to forget about Leonard. US officials need to know that we are here to stay, and that they had better do something if they want to stay in office, or get into office during an election year.

We have known for a while that if thirty calls about a certain issue go to the White House comments line on the same day, a note goes upstairs to the President. Thirty calls is not all that much, but it is in fact hard to get most average citizens to take these calls seriously...because they are convinced that no one pays any attention. So our first task, as always, is to organize. We want to go for one hundred calls a day to the White House during these months before Leonard's parole hearing. This does not mean each one of us needs to call every single day although that would be great if you have the time to do this.

Soon it will be too late for justice in this tragic case. Should Mr. Peltier become disabled or die in prison, the damage to our relations with our Native American citizens will be irreversible.

However, we only need each of you to organize a calling session for once a week. We need one hundred calls to go in each day from a given region of the US. The northeast people call on Mondays. The southeast calls on Tuesdays, the mid-west calls on Wednesday, the north-west calls on Thursday and the south-west calls on Friday.

a. You are calling to ask that President Clinton contact the United States Parole Commission and voice his support for parole for Leonard Peltier.

b. Leonard is many years overdue for parole, and has served longer than most other prisoners with similar convictions. He has been a model prisoner for 24 years, with no record of violence.

c. Leonard Peltier has long contributed to humanitarian efforts by raising scholarship monies, serving on the advisory board to the Rosenberg Fund for Children, doing an annual Christmas drive for the people of the Pine Ridge reservation, assisting the people of Chiapas, sponsoring children in Guatemala and El Salvador, setting up Native American entrepreneurial programs, and a newspaper, organizing prisoner art programs and much more. He has also received many human rights awards for his efforts.

d. Leonard Peltier is now in deteriorating health and cannot receive adequate medical care in prison. He should be released for medical and humanitarian reasons.

e. As we all know, there is disturbing evidence that the FBI falsified the evidence against him during his trial. Leonard was extradited on the basis of a false affidavit signed by Myrtle Poor Bear, who had been threatened by the FBI. The younger witnesses at trial had

all been severely intimidated. The FBI also concealed a ballistics test showing that the fatal bullet was never fired from the rifle claimed to belong to Mr. Peltier. The FBI agents also changed their description of the vehicle involved in the shoot out, so as to better link Mr. Peltier to the skirmish. Even the U.S. Attorney has admitted that no one knows who pulled the trigger on June 26, 1975. An innocent man has now been imprisoned for 24 years.

f. Mr. Clinton made a grave mistake by not granting clemency to Mr. Peltier. We hope he will correct this error at once by contacting the parole commission and supporting Mr. Peltier's release. Time is running out.

II. Calls to Congress 202-224-3121 : If your group is willing to make additional calls, please ask them to call your Congresspersons and educate them about this case. The switchboard will connect you to the main office, and you should ask to speak with the legislative aid in charge of civil rights issues in the U.S. Tell them that you want urgent action taken on Leonard Peltier's behalf, and that you would like them to support both clemency and parole in this case. The basic points are the same as the ones to

make during the White House calls. You should also ask them to hold hearings on FBI abuses in this case. If they need further information, send them the 6-page fact summary on our web site, or call us at 785-842-5774 and we will send you a packet of support letters and other materials.

III. Telephone campaign to the Department of Justice: If people would like to also call or fax a brief message to the offices of Janet Reno, this would also be helpful. The correct number is 202-305-1400. The basic message should be quite brief and courteous, as we want her to investigate FBI conduct in this case, and most importantly, to support Leonard's clemency and parole petitions. Here are the most important points:

a. We would like for Janet Reno to communicate with the US Parole Commission and express her full support for parole for Mr. Peltier

b. Mr. Peltier has been in prison for 24 years and has an excellent record. He has participated in many humanitarian efforts, including the annual Christmas drive for Pine Ridge Reservation, a his work for Native American scholarships, entrepreneurial programs and Native American newspapers, his sponsorship of Central American children, and his service as an advisory board member to the Rosenberg Fund for Children. He is nevertheless long overdue for parole, and has served more time than most other prisoners convicted of the same crimes. We want this matter resolved as soon as possible.

c. Mr. Peltier is in deteriorating health and cannot receive adequate medical care in prison.

d. There is disturbing evidence that the FBI in fact coerced and intimidated

witnesses, utilized false testimonies, and concealed a ballistics test reflecting his innocence. FBI agents also changed their description of the vehicle involved in the shoot out so, as to unjustly implicate Mr. Peltier. The result of this FBI misconduct has been that Leonard Peltier has spent 24 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Time is running out for setting this matter straight.

e. Accordingly, we ask that Ms. Reno fully and publicly support Mr. Peltier's petition for parole; that she take urgent steps to assure that the FBI and other Justice officials will not improperly obstruct his parole as they have in the past; and that she immediately call for a full investigation of FBI abuses in this case.

SAMPLE LETTER:

The United States Parole Commission
Dear Commissioners,

As a concerned citizen of this country, I am writing to express my full support for parole for Mr. Leonard Peltier. Mr. Peltier is a Native American leader who has now been incarcerated for some 24 years. He has served far longer than most prisoners convicted of similar crimes, and his conduct in prison has been excellent. I would be honored to receive him in my own home when he is released.

I am particularly impressed with the many good deeds Mr. Peltier has carried out during his many years behind bars. He has worked with medical experts to improve health care delivery on the reservations, and has helped to establish an entrepreneur program for talented Native youth. He was instrumental in setting up a Native American scholarship program at New York University, and helped start up a Native American newspaper in Washington State. He has sponsored two children in rural El Salvador and Guatemala, and runs annual clothing and toy drives for the people of Pine Ridge Reservation, half way houses, and women's centers. He has also played a key role in assisting other prisoners display their art work across country, in order to promote prisoner art programs and increase prisoner self-confidence and esteem. This man has proven himself to be a compassionate human being and a true leader. I am especially concerned with Mr. Peltier's deteriorating health. He is now 55 years old, and suffers from a heart condition as well as diabetes. He has lost most of the vision in one eye due to poor medical care. He also has a jaw condition, which causes him constant pain and prevents him from moving his jaw or chewing his food. Mayo Clinic specialist, Dr. Keller has offered free treatment in prison facilities has weighed in favor of parole.

Soon it will be too late for justice in this tragic case. Should Mr. Peltier become disabled or die in prison, the damage to our relations with our Native American citizens will be irreversible. We ask that urgent action be taken to set Mr. Peltier free at long last so that he may share his gifts with his beloved people. We also ask that a thorough investigation of FBI misconduct in this case, and indeed with respect to the residents of Pine Ridge Reservation, be carried out at once. Until there is justice for all, our most dearly held concepts of democracy remain at risk. ♦



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH LEONARD PELTIER

MARCH FOR JUSTICE
FEBRUARY 5TH (Saturday)
TACOMA, WA
12:00 NOON

PORTLAND AVE PARK
(On Portland Ave. between E. 34th & E. Fairbanks Ave. Take Portland Ave. exit off I-5 and head East on Portland Ave. March route will go along Portland Ave. to Puyallup Ave. to Pacific Ave. to 17th St.)

1:00 PM RALLY
U.S. FEDERAL COURT- HOUSE, 1717 PACIFIC AVE.

February 6th, 2000 will mark the 24th year since Leonard's arrest. Each year Leonard Peltier supporters around the world take part in THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH LEONARD PELTIER marking the date in which Leonard begins a new year in prison. This year, because February 6th is a Sunday, the NWLPSN will be have it's annual Tacoma March & Rally For Justice on Saturday February 5th. We are also making plans to hold an honoring meal on February 6th. The February 5th Tacoma March & Rally will also mark the 50th rally that the NWLPSN has helped organize within our region since its founding upon Leonard's request in 1993.

We welcome the involvement of all Peltier supporters in any way they can find to help. We are in need of donations to help pay for the expenses of the march and rally. Please send donations to: NWLPSN, OLYMPIA OFFICE, P.O. BOX 4398, TUMWATER, WA 98501.

"Those who put me here and keep me here knowing of my innocence can take grim satisfaction in their sure reward---which is being who and what they are. That's as terrible a reward as any I could imagine. I know who and what I am. I am an Indian---an Indian who dared to stand up to defend his people. I am an innocent man who never murdered anyone nor wanted to. And, yes, I am a Sun Dancer. That, too, is my identity. If I am to suffer as a symbol of my people, then I suffer proudly. I will never yield."

Leonard Peltier From "Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sun Dance"

The Ten Worst Corporations of 1999

Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman

Charles Dickens, where are you when we need you?

Never has "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" served as a more apt commentary on society than today.

The NASDAQ just broke 4,000 and has nearly doubled in 1999. The Dow is at near-record heights as well. Internet, computer and communications technologies are evolving at a stunning velocity. A lot of people are becoming incredibly wealthy, and a lot are having fun on the Internet.

If you want, you can look at this state of affairs and say that everything is fine. Go ahead, pat yourself on the back.

Or, you can look at a different set of snapshots and ask these and many other probing questions:

Why does the United States, the richest nation in the history of the world, warehouse its elderly in what are euphemistically called nursing homes, permitting many to live out their last years in social isolation and sometimes filth and neglect?

Why are profitable and fast-growing corporations permitted to expose their workers to dangerous and life-threatening conditions that could be avoided with minimal investments?

Why are the poor, undereducated and unsophisticated subject to a host of financial scams that empty their small savings accounts or throw them into debt?

Why are working people in the United States who try to organize into unions regularly subjected to threats of firing and plant closure, harassment, intimidation and managerial refusal to bargain with duly elected unions?

Why does the United States permit the massive concentration of economic and political power through mergers and acquisitions that work to foreclose democratic options for the future?

Why do rich societies permit their corporations to engage, directly or indirectly, through contractors and subcontractors, in brutally exploitative practices in developing countries—practices that have long been outlawed in the rich countries?

Why indeed.

There is of course no one single answer to these and the many other critical questions that should be asked in a society that does so much to generate wealth, at least as measured by conventional standards, but so little to distribute that wealth—or justice—evenly. But there is one connecting theme that serves, at least, as a partial answer to many of these questions: concentrated corporate power.

Each year, to highlight the consequences of corporations and greed run amok, Multinational Monitor publishes a list of the 10 worst corporations of the year.

Here's this year's list, in alphabetical order:

Avondale: Good riddance

For more than half a decade, Avondale, which operates a shipyard in

New Orleans, waged a vicious campaign to block recognition of its employees' desire for a union—a desire springing in no small part from way below industry standard wages and a gruesome workplace casualty record of a death a year. In August, Avondale was acquired by Litton, which agreed to recognize the workers' union in November.

Citigroup: The standard in political corruption

Citigroup played the lead role in ushering the "Financial Services Modern-

ization Act" through the U.S. Congress, in the process joining with the rest of the financial services industry to set a new standard in legalized bribery. The Act will tear down the regulatory walls between banks, and insurance companies and securities firms, paving the massive concentration of financial wealth and a future of industry bailouts, weakening the Community Reinvestment Act and permitting huge intrusions on consumer privacy.

Del Monte: Banana imperialism into the twenty-first century

In September, Bandegua, the Guatemalan subsidiary of Coral Gables, Florida-based Fresh Del Monte Produce (now a separate company from

Guardian Postacute: Maggots everywhere

After learning that Guardian

Postacute Services Inc., a San Francisco Bay area nursing home chain, had permitted dirty feeding tubes to be installed into patients who then became infested with maggots, had permitted patients to lie for extended periods in their urine and feces, and had failed to take strong action against an employee who sexually abused patients, Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Randy Hey has filed criminal charges against Guardian.

Hoffman La Roche: Take the market, pay the fine

Earlier this year, the Swiss pharmaceutical giant F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. paid \$500 million—the largest fine in U.S. antitrust history—for its

efforts with German chemical maker BASF to allocate market shares for certain vitamins sold in the United States and elsewhere. The whistleblower who inspired the case says Roche's response to the fines was to redouble its efforts to gain total control of the vitamin market.

Tosco: Four dead workers

On February 23, 1999, four workers at a Tosco Corp. facility in Avon, California were burned to death after they tried to replace a leaky oil pipe. The San Francisco Chronicle reported that one Tosco employee, Anthony Creggett, claimed shortly after the fire that plant managers had refused a request by four workers to shut down the high-temperature distillation tower during the repairs on the pipe.

Tyson: Seven deaths in seven months

Maybe we should consider raising our own chickens. Clearly, relying on multinational corporations to raise millions of birds for us in unsanitary and dangerous conditions is not working out. Tysons Foods is a case in point. Do you really want to buy your chicken from these people? Consider this: seven workers have been killed at Tyson facilities this year. There have been no reported job-related deaths at any other poultry company in 1999.

U.S. Bank: Big brother is watching

Earlier this year, U.S. Bank agreed to stop selling its customers' personal data—everything from social security numbers to account balances, from birth date to number of credit cards—to a telemarketing firm. But that came only after Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch filed a lawsuit against U.S. Bank,

(Continued next page)

There is one connecting theme that serves, at least, as a partial answer to many of these critical questions: concentrated corporate power.

Sign-On Letter

In Support of L.A. Sweatshop Workers

On November 16, eight garment workers—all Latino immigrants—employed by J.H. Design Group in Los Angeles came forward to file a lawsuit against their employer, alleging illegal working conditions. Between 1991 and 1999, they labored under sweatshop conditions, sewing jackets with logos of brand-name companies and top universities. The workers are demanding the wages owed them and damages for the abuses they endured. This is the first opportunity to see whether workers can use university codes of conduct as a tool to win justice.

TO SIGN THE LETTER, please reply to <sweatwatch@igc.org> with your: Name: Affiliation, if applicable (organization, school/state if student, faculty, staff, alumni) - for identification purposes only: City, State: Please sign this letter to these universities and companies: Florida * Indiana * Kentucky * Michigan * Nebraska * Notre Dame * Ohio State * Tennessee * UCLA * USC * Wisconsin * Nike * Reebok * Disney * NASCAR * NBA * NFL * NHL * MLB:

Dear _____:

We are writing to express our concern for the eight garment workers who sewed clothing for you while employed by J.H. Design Group in Los Angeles. Their labor rights were routinely violated. They were:

- * paid less than minimum wage, as low as \$3.00 per hour,
- * worked long hours, and were often not paid overtime,
- * forced to take work home,
- * subjected to harassment and intimidation, and
- * illegally fired for speaking out about sweatshop conditions.

As you undoubtedly know, garment workers too often are denied basic rights such as minimum wage, overtime pay and safe working conditions. Manufacturers, retailers and universities who license the use of their logos must take responsibility for these conditions by ensuring that the workers sewing for their labels and logos work under fair and humane conditions. We urge you to stand behind your code of conduct and workers' rights:

1. Guarantee these workers are paid the wages they are owed, plus damages for the abuses they endured.
2. Investigate how workers are treated and how they are paid before you source or produce your products to ensure fair and humane conditions. While codes of conduct are not a substitute for enforcement of strong labor laws and worker organizing, they can be useful when they are independently monitored. We also urge you to:
3. Adopt an independent verification

plan for your code of conduct, such as the Workers Rights Consortium, so that workers themselves are involved in verifying compliance with codes of conduct.

Please do your part to help end sweatshops, so that workers such as these can obtain the basic dignity that they deserve. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Join the Rapid Action Network

Campaign for Labor Rights has established a Rapid Action Network to apply more effective pressure in support of sweatshop worker struggles. Participating groups agree to mobilize in their communities with as little as 14 days notice (more notice whenever we can manage it) at least 6 out of 10 times when asked during the course of the year. The great majority of the mobilizations will be leafleting actions, usually at retail outlets.

These mobilizations are intended to increase the leverage of sweatshop union activists when they press for demands such as: reinstatement of fired organizers, union recognition and good-faith contract bargaining. The goal of the mobilizations is worker empowerment through free trade unions and collective bargaining.

The Rapid Action Network is intended for local groups which have a capacity to put together leafleting actions. To join, contact the Campaign for Labor Rights, 1247 "E" Street SE, Washington, DC 20003, email: <CLR@igc.org> fax: (541) 431-0523: ♦

(10 Worst, continued)

alleging it violated the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act and engaged in consumer fraud and deceptive advertising.

Whirlpool: Preying on the poor

Earlier this year, an Alabama jury hit a recently spun off Whirlpool subsidiary, Whirlpool Financial, and one of its dealers with a \$581 million verdict for targeting illiterate and poor people in a sales scheme involving satellite television dishes. Lawyers representing the victims said that Whirlpool had dealers all over the state going door-to-door soliciting poor, unsophisticated and elderly customers to purchase satellite television dishes for \$1,100 plus 22 percent interest. The same equipment could be bought at an electronics store for \$199. On appeal, an Alabama appellate court agreed only to knock the verdict down to \$301 million.

W.R. Grace: You can't eat enough of it

At least 192 people have died of asbestos-related disease from a mine near Libby, Montana that was owned by W.R. Grace for nearly 30 years, according to a report that appeared in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. At least another 375 have been diagnosed with the fatal disease. For three decades, Grace mined enormous deposits of vermiculite in the earth of nearby Zonolite Mountain. Under the vermiculite are millions of tons of tremolite, a rare and exceedingly toxic form of asbestos. Community residents say Grace for years told residents and workers that the dust was harmless. "When my father was a young man they told him, 'You can't eat enough of that stuff. It won't bother you. He's dead,'" Patrick Vinion, a Libby resident, says. Now Vinion, who never worked as a miner, is himself dying from asbestos-related disease.

Russell Mokhiber is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based Corporate Crime Reporter. Robert Weissman is editor of the Washington, D.C.-based Multinational Monitor. They are co-authors of Corporate Predators: The Hunt for MegaProfits and the Attack on Democracy (Monroe, Maine: Common Courage Press, 1999, <http://www.corporatepredators.org>) (c) Russell Mokhiber and Robert Weissman

Workers' Rights are Human Rights**Ron Jacobs**

December 10th is a day set aside to celebrate the signing of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. This past December I was invited, along with several others, to speak to a gathering in Burlington's city hall commemorating the declaration, and challenge those in

tions like the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and their corporate sponsors, who foist so-called free trade agreements and austerity measures on people around the world. It is important to remember that the rights of working people—that is, a job that pays a livable wage, a safe, humane workplace, health care, a 40 hour week, and the dignity that comes with knowing you are providing for

With a union, workers and the unemployed around the world can guarantee that their human rights and those of their families will be protected and expanded.

attendance to do whatever they could to ensure that the rights laid out in the declaration were adhered to everywhere on the planet. Each speaker was asked to address a certain aspect of the declaration's call for social, political and economic rights. My talk follows:

It's quite appropriate that this day falls within the season that Charles Dickens' Ebenezer Scrooge disparaged most of his life. As most of us know, Scrooge's character was the epitome of all that is wrong with a system that puts profit above all else, including human life. Nowadays, instead of the Scrooges of the 19th century, we have organiza-

yourself and those you love—are human rights. Whether those rights are being fought for here at Vermont's largest university, the maquiladoras of Mexico, the sweatshops of Asia or New York, or the prisons of the world, these conditions can only be achieved when one of the most fundamental of all human rights—the right to organize—is protected from those who threaten to deny us that right. Whether that threat comes from a policeman's club or from the manager who threatens to fire us or the trade agreement that not only lowers the wages of all working people in order to increase corporate profits but denies

working people their rights, the power to not retreat from such threats comes when workers are unionized. With a union, workers and the unemployed around the world can guarantee that their human rights and those of their families will be protected and expanded. When workers have a union they can protect themselves from attacks on their jobs, lives and even their humanity no matter whether those attacks are a so-called by-product of some globalist trade agreement or as brutal as a nightstick to the head—it doesn't matter, they have a union. When workers have a union that protects their rights as workers and opposes the exploitation of other workers—whether those workers are children in another country or the fields of America or adults pushing a broom or working with computers, they are protecting the human rights of the communities they live in and by default, the human rights of the global community.

This is what a union is—a guarantor of our rights as working people and as human beings.

Free trade will not guarantee a livable wage and the end to exploitation of children. Free trade will not guarantee work with dignity and the freedom for workers to organize. Free trade will not guarantee gender equality and hope of a better world for our children around the world. These things will only be achieved when workers and unions together in every country around the world work together to achieve them. ♦

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Book Review:

Rethinking Causes and Solutions Around Breast Cancer

Wendy C. Ortiz

Breast Cancer: Poisons, Profits and Prevention by Liane Clorfene-Casten. Common Courage Press, 1996.

My recent visit to Los Angeles had me visiting my father and interviewing him about the rate of cancer on his side of the family. He and his siblings spent much of their childhood picking crops in California's San Joaquin Valley, and

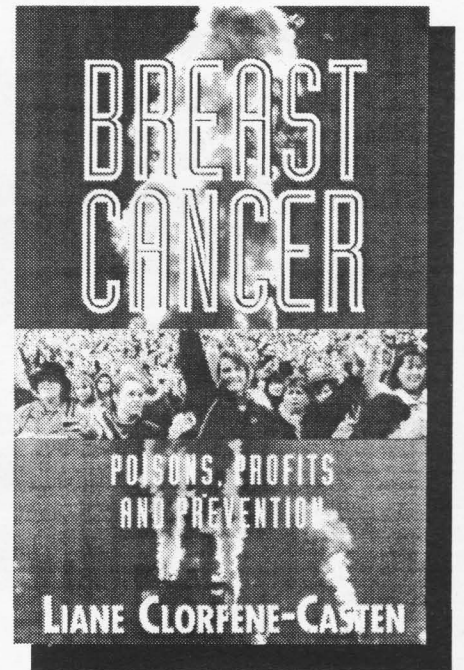
panies, to the pesticide industry, to some "support groups" and institutions that supposedly combat breast cancer, but actually exacerbate the problem in ways that are detailed throughout the text.

The author includes a thorough description of the most dangerous culprits, ranging from DDT and its "cousins", polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxins, synthetic hormones, bovine growth hormones, pesticides, workplace contamination, and nuclear radiation. A whole slew of deadly agents that are routinely used and forced on our environment and our bodies. There are chap-

cancer epidemic in the chapter "The Cancer Establishment," a no-holds-barred description of the incestuous relationships between drug companies and others in the establishment, including but not limited to the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute.

Clorfene-Casten concludes with a call for corporate accountability, the revoking of corporate charters and other measures that would probably be more "preventive" of cancer than a yearly mammogram after the age of 50. She also instills hope in her readers by discussing alternative methods of treating cancer, methods which are often ignored or hotly discounted by the cancer establishment. She includes an activist agenda, the "Greenpeace Summary of Chlorine Phaseout," and selected women's organizations that view the environment as a link to the breast cancer epidemic.

After all, paying a few cents extra for stamps that "advertise" and fund breast cancer research, as I did last year, is not enough. Talking to my family about our genetic inheritance is also walking down the wrong path. We can talk to our families about the environment and learn simple ways to clean up what's around us, such as use of commercial household cleaners. We can find out about our communities and others that are threat-



ened by waste incinerators, nuclear reactors, and actively protest them into changing their ways. Making corporations accountable for their toxicity and disease-causing businesses is key. Involving everyone in the discussion of the environmental links to breast cancer is crucial in order to see the downfall of profit-driven corporations that peddle both disease and cures.

Common Courage Press publishes titles on social justice and political issues for an informed democracy. Call 1 - 8 0 0 - 4 9 7 - 3 2 0 7 . www.commoncouragepress.com Become the next subscriber to Works In Progress and receive a free copy of Breast Cancer: Poisons, Profits and Prevention. Offer is valid for the first subscription order received only. ♦

Very little is being done to stop the proliferation of industries that profit from breast cancer.

many of his siblings stayed in the nearby towns of Visalia and Tulare.

Two of my father's sisters died of cancer. One of his brothers acquired cancer and went into remission, also attaining a new found love of running and the Lord. I asked my father to remind me what kind of cancers his sisters had died from, wondering aloud if perhaps there was a genetic cancer gene I should be aware of.

In talking with my father, we concluded that it was the region: the water, the crops they worked in, the land they continued to live on. We are not scientists, and far from it. I walked away from that conversation wondering where I had come up with the idea of a cancer gene in my family. *Breast Cancer: Poisons, Profits and Prevention* is an extremely informative expose, manual and resource that pinpoints the most common cause of cancer: environmental toxins.

Liane Clorfene-Casten, besides being a community activist and investigative journalist, has directed short films on the issues of social justice. She is a media watchdog and chair of the Chicago Media Watch Environmental Task Force. She starts this courageous book by outlining some of the most commonly held risk factors of thirty percent of breast cancer patients, such as familial history, start of menstruation, onset of early menopause, high fat diet, etc. From there she asserts that for the other seventy percent, environmental factors play a key role in damage to women's bodies. Clorfene-Casten blasts the misconception that breast cancer is somehow individual women's faults. In reality, the blame for breast cancer largely falls in the lap of profit-seekers ranging from drug com-

ters worth of highly footnoted information about these chemicals and agents of disease. But these are not the only killers.

As usual, traditional medicine has provided its patients with highly unhealthy, unsound advice in the name of prevention. This is not to fault conscientious doctors that try to give the best care they can to patients; rather, it's a desire for accountability of doctors and medical institutions that prescribe procedures or practices that have known, statistical dangers. Clorfene-Casten targets the uses of tamoxifen and mammograms as "preventives." In actuality, these practices often up the risks of breast cancer and other types of cancer, and may not be feasible in preventing the risk of breast cancer at all, according to statistics and the author's detailed accounts of studies and journal articles on the subject. Additionally, there are several other myriad methods being tested for their abilities to detect or slow down the cancer process, while very little is being done to stop the proliferation of industries that profit from breast cancer.

And indeed, this is the crux of the book. Corporations like Dow Corning (maker of silicone implants), Monsanto (dioxin kings), waste incinerating companies, the gasoline industry, nuclear plants: all of these and more are not held accountable for their cancer-causing products. In the chapter "Government Regulators or Corporate Shills?", the author outlines the abuses of power propagated by federal agencies such as the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She goes even further in implicating guilty parties to the breast

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Major Breakthrough On Mumia's Case

Jerry Gordon

There has been a major development on the legal front in the fight to save the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal. I say this based on a conversation I had on January 19, 2000 with Leonard Weinglass, chief attorney for Abu-Jamal.

Here is the situation. Under the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, enacted by Congress with Clinton's aggressive backing in 1996, federal judges are required to accord a presumption of correctness to the factual findings of state judges. Here's an example of how that was working in Mumia's case. As we know, witnesses who testified against him at the trial at which he was con-

hearing in Philadelphia the following morning. This hearing took place in chambers. The judge informed attorneys on both sides that he will now accept papers and hear arguments challenging the correctness of Sabo's findings of fact. This means he will review the entire record of the case, something that Abu-Jamal's attorneys had been arguing from the beginning that he should do (which he can do since presumptions in the law can be overcome with strong evidence). This is a major breakthrough in the case!

The timing of all this is striking. On Wednesday, January 12, the International Delegation met with three Deputy Assistant Attorneys General at the Justice Department. On Thursday, January

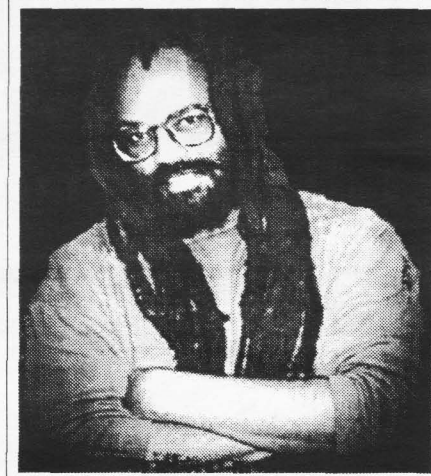
new schedule for legal briefs from both sides was set. The old schedule required all briefs to be filed by the end of February and projected a March court appearance. The new schedule requires all briefs to be in by April 2, after which Judge Yohn will set a court date.

Mass Demonstration

The year 2000 will be the decisive year in the legal and political struggle for the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal. We are asking all people of conscience to join us in massive non-violent civil disobedience and a simultaneous legal rally on Monday, February 28, at the US Court of Appeals in San Francisco. This West Coast demonstration will coincide with massive civil disobedience at the US Supreme Court in Washington D.C.

The East and West Coast actions will generate national and international attention through the participation of public figures and activists from around the country who will risk arrest. It will focus attention on the federal court, which may decide Mumia's fate sometime this year. The federal court is Mumia's last avenue to receive a new trial, yet the federal courts' powers to review death penalty convictions have recently been drastically curtailed. During 1996-97 appeal hearings, Pennsylvania judge Albert Sabo — the same notorious 'hanging judge' who oversaw Mumia's original 1982 trial — wholeheartedly rejected mountains of new evidence which showed that the case against Mumia was false.

Under the 1996 Effective Death Penalty Act, the federal court may be bound by these biased rulings, essentially becoming a rubber stamp for the state court's decision sending Mumia to his death. Without a full and fair consider-



ation of the evidence, Mumia's fate, and that of the 2,400 other death row inmates in the US, is grim.

The peaceful massive civil disobedience will expose our outrage at the Effective Death Penalty Act and this country's current rush to kill. We will demonstrate our support for Mumia as a political prisoner and the other some 100 political prisoners still held in US prisons and jails.

Join us to show the world that there is no justice in America as long as Mumia remains in prison and on death row. Together we can and must free Mumia!

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Obviously, none of this suggests there should be any letup in building the popular movement to save Mumia Abu-Jamal's life.

victed came forward later and recanted their testimony. They testified before Judge Albert Sabo, who presided over the original trial, in a hearing on a motion for a new trial that they had been intimidated and threatened by police into giving false testimony against Abu-Jamal. Judge Sabo, in a finding of fact, decided these witnesses at the hearing on the motion for a new trial were not credible. In the federal proceeding, on the petition for a writ of habeas corpus, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys argued that the federal judge, William Yohn, was bound by that finding, as well as by the other Sabo findings of fact. Until Friday, January 14, the federal judge agreed, meaning he would not review the entire record of the case.

Suddenly, this situation changed dramatically. On Thursday, January 13, Weinglass, while in New York, was summoned by the judge to appear at a

hearing in Philadelphia the following morning. This hearing took place in chambers. The judge informed attorneys on both sides that he will now accept papers and hear arguments challenging the correctness of Sabo's findings of fact. This means he will review the entire record of the case, something that Abu-Jamal's attorneys had been arguing from the beginning that he should do (which he can do since presumptions in the law can be overcome with strong evidence). This is a major breakthrough in the case!

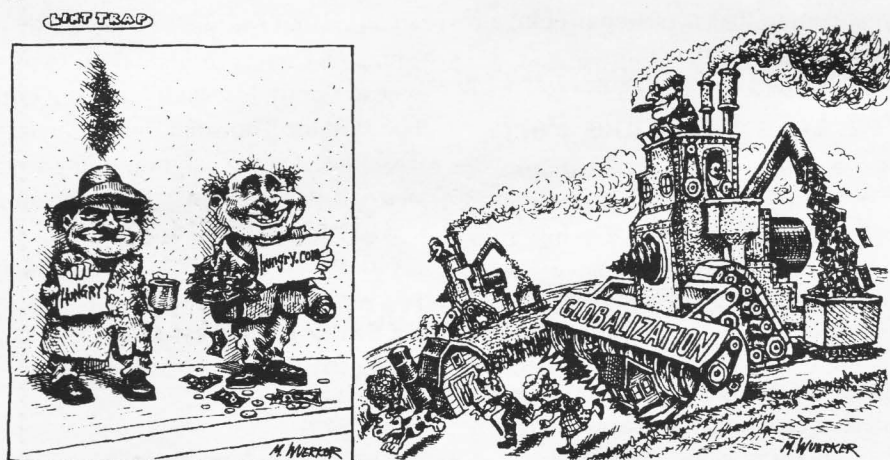
Obviously, none of this suggests there should be any letup in building the popular movement to save Mumia Abu-Jamal's life. On the contrary, as we know, it is more important than ever to build that movement as massively as possible in the streets. The legal breakthrough that has been won should give all supporters of the struggle greater hope that the ultimate victory can be won and that Mumia Abu-Jamal will be freed.

Important Legal Update on Mumia Abu-Jamal

by C. Clark Kissinger

In a meeting between Judge William H. Yohn and attorneys for both sides in Mumia's federal habeas corpus case, a

Matt Wuerker, nationally renowned political cartoonist, will be visiting Olympia



He has published his work in *Z magazine*, *The Nation*, *the Christian Science Monitor*, *the Los Angeles Times*, and other magazines and newspapers, and is the author of "Meanwhile in Other News..." published by Common Courage Press.

He will speak at noon on Tuesday, February 15th at the Department of Ecology headquarters auditorium on Environmentalist Wacko Humor: Cartooning until they're Green in the face". Ecology HQ has very limited parking, so you are encouraged to ride the free State Shuttle or carpool.

On Wednesday February 16th at 7pm he will speak at Olympia World News on "Rendering unto Caesar.... Cartooning in the Empire of Irony". The Wednesday evening event is a benefit for BOOKS TO PRISONERS - please bring a donation of books (especially dictionaries and educational paperbacks), stamps (any denomination welcome), or cash.

Both events are free, and are sponsored by the Ecology Chapter of the Washington Public Employees Association.

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners must go through the main branch:
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Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the business formerly known as Bulldog News at 116 4th Ave in downtown Olympia

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Hours: Currently, the business hours are from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm daily. After hours donations possible by appointment. Please call the message phone below and leave a message.

Address: Books to Prisoners, 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Message Phone: (360)943-2375

Letters & Briefs, cont.

world or any other progressive cause." He asserts that they had "nothing to do with the protest in question." Where does he get this information from? A communique from one of the affinity groups that engaged in property destruction responds to this misinformation. From "Ten Myths about the Black Bloc" by the Acme Collective:

9. "They don't know the issues" or "they aren't activists who've been working on this." While we may not be professional activists, we've all been working on this convergence in Seattle for months. Some of us did work in our home-towns and others came to Seattle months in advance to work on it. To be sure, we were responsible for many hundreds of people who came out on the streets on the 30th, only a very small minority of which had anything to do with the black bloc. Most of us have been studying the effects of the global economy, genetic engineering, resource extraction, transportation, labor practices, elimination of indigenous autonomy, animal rights and human rights and we've been doing activism on these issues for many years. We are neither ill-informed nor inexperienced.

Mr. Johnson says "maybe it's time for us progressives to start planning for these jerks when we plan our demonstrations. Besides the usual marshals, in the future, we should have a team of people whose job is to watch out for these idiots and weed them out if they appear."

What we can guess from this statement is that Mr. Johnson advocates either turning certain people (we're not sure who, as he is not clear on this point) over to the police, which is a violent act, or using violence against these people. If this isn't what he intended by the remark, he certainly gives this impression. We feel that his position is completely contrary to WIP's mission of "providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed" and he would be better to further such reactionary ideas where they belong, in a pro-establishment publication.

Down with the American Empire,
Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous

Another Reply to Johnson

Big words and sweeping statements for somebody that wasn't even there to know what was going on. The police were trained for a riot and they put that training to use and created one. And please, stop sympathizing for the suffering of the multinational corporations.

John Cummins

Yet Another Reply to Jerome Johnson

Dear WIP/Jerome-

I am writing concerning Jerome's column about the WTO protests in the January issue of WIP, specifically statements such as "I was surprised and gratified by the incredible restraint shown by the Seattle police", and his contention that "black-clad agitators provoking violence" were "using the event as a cover to break things, scare people, and riot" (he is talking about demonstrators, but such statements could more accurately be applied to the police). Jerome states that these "anarchists" have no concern except advancing their own violence, and could really care less about the Makah culture, WTO and workers around the

world, or any other progressive cause". I find these contentions to be insulting, ignorant, and reactionary.

It is an insult to the thousands of people who were kicked, clubbed, gassed with carcinogenic chemicals, sexually assaulted, and otherwise physically tortured in the streets and in the jails to say that the police showed "incredible restraint". If you do not believe the personal accounts of activists who were there, you have only to watch video footage of the event or check out some of the photos to see hundreds of scenes of police using excessive force or being downright brutal. Even the mainstream media was riddled with dramatic photos of police clubbing people who were already on the ground, or shooting them with rubber bullets at point blank range. There were dozens of accounts of random residents and workers being beaten, gassed, and arrested on their way home from work. Certainly it was no El Salvador or Beijing, but Jerome's exclamation of "thank god no one was killed" does not cut it as a reason for the left to dole out gratitude to the cops.

I was also nauseated by the assertion that the demonstrators who destroyed property were "provoking" violence. It is sad to see "progressive" people using the logic of the system to come to the conclusion that we brought the violence upon ourselves; that we somehow deserved the outrageous "punitive" measures used by the police. As if it never would have happened if only we had behaved better. The police don't need any provocation or justification to beat people, and they never have. We live in a society with no real police accountability, and they are assured virtual impunity for their actions. By many accounts including the New York Times, and by video documentation, it is apparent that the gassings and beatings started long before any windows got broken. But even if that wasn't the case, the breaking of glass does not justify the breaking of bones. There is a difference between destruction of property and violence against humans, however clouded that has become in a capitalist nation seized by the mania of owning things. For an eloquent discussion of this concept, I invite you to read the article by Mumia Abu Jamal on page 7 of the same issue of WIP.

Then there was the bit about the anarchists destroying things without a purpose, painting them as stupid kids who were thoughtlessly anti-authoritarian and acted simply out of a joy for breaking stuff. Please, we could get this kind of crappy analysis from Newsweek! More than one group of people who was involved in the destruction of property sent out intelligent communiques explaining that the destruction was premeditated and targeted specific corporations for specific reasons. Their ideas about strategy for change may differ from yours, but that does not make them thoughtless or purposeless. It also does not mean that we should "have a team of people to... weed them out" of future demonstrations. That is a downright scary proposition! Who would do the weeding out? Who decides who gets weeded? And how exactly do you weed someone out, do you use physical force?

The column seemed to me to be mainly about Jerome wanting to make some sort of public explanation for why he wasn't at the march, which was not necessary

and also seems inappropriate for the paper. And this was laced with his "observations" about an event that he didn't go to. I normally enjoy Jerome's column, but I would encourage him and the editorial staff to be more discerning when deciding what is appropriate to print.

Tara Perkins

One More Reply to Jerome

Having participated in anti-WTO events in Seattle, I am offended by Jerome Johnson's article, which was about his guilt for not protesting the WTO and sympathy for police.

I think that righteous anger of people against corporations is completely justified. Breaking windows of multi-million dollar companies is but a dent in the system. Sometimes, there is room for such action, and I think that was a perfect time and place to exhibit such anger. These companies merely have to submit their insurance claims to make their money back on the broken glass and spilled coffee. Meanwhile, protestors went home with tear gas and pepper spray saturating their clothes, their immune systems, and even their central nervous systems. That's just the beginning and says nothing of the collective jail experience, rubber bullets in the face, and overall trauma of such an event.

Praising the cops for their "restraint" is the stuff of corporate media. I'm disturbed this message found its way into *Works In Progress* newspaper.

Sarah Ballesteroz

Olympia Workers Assoc.

The Olympia Workers Association is having a meeting for interested workers Thursday, February 10, at 7:00 P.M. in the Praxis space downtown (Praxis is in the alley behind the fireplace store across from Orca Books on 4th Ave.).

The Olympia Workers Association has been meeting for a few months. It conducted a survey of workers about their working conditions. Results will be published in April. OWA exists to promote and protect the interests of workers - particularly those in low wage jobs. It is trying, for example, to find ways to get health insurance coverage for uncovered workers. OWA is an important and new organization that needs your help and support. Visit us the 10th.

PFLAG's Valentines Party

Sunday, February 13 at 2pm

First Methodist Church

1224 Legion Way, Olympia

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: **support**, to cope with an adverse society; **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and **advocacy**, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

Valentine Fundraiser

Sunday, February 13 at 7pm

Washington Center for the Performing Arts

KAOS welcomes/SoundWave presents:

- THE GUARNERI UNDERGROUND performing an energetic blend of world music they call 'Afro-Celtic-fiddle-funk'.

Guarneri Underground features the six-string electric violin playing of Jeffrey Sick. Among other accomplishments Jeffrey has performed in stage productions including touring with M Butterfly and his music has been featured on National Public Radio.

- THE CASEY NEILL TRIO with special guest Anthea Lawrence will open the show with acoustic Celtic music.

Tickets are available for \$9 to \$12 with reduced rates for children, students and seniors Box Office, (360) 753-8586. For more info - (360) 352-2561

Celebrate Valentine's Day

Domestic Partner

Registration Party

Monday, February 14th at 7pm

Capital Coach House

Behind the State Capitol Museum

South Capitol Neighborhood

* look for the pink and lavender balloons (West on 22nd Ave from Capitol Way S., two blocks to corner of 22nd & S. Water)

Free and open to the public

Olympia and Tumwater recently created Domestic Partner Registries for couples willing to sign an affidavit and pay a fee to receive a certificate of domestic partnership. Certificates convey no tangible legal or financial benefits but do hold strong symbolic value to those denied the right to marry in this society. Certificates will be available to eligible residents as per the City's conditions.

Hors d'oeuvres, beverages and toastings! Donations gladly accepted. Sponsored by the Black Hills Alliance & Thurston County Tenants Union. Please call 943-7469 to RSVP or for more information.

Candle-light vigil for the victims of the war on drugs

There will be two candlelight vigils in support of those imprisoned under the so-called "War On Drugs". **The first will take place at the King County Jail, 5th and James in Seattle, on Tuesday, February 15th between 5 and 8 PM. The second will occur in Olympia on the Capitol Steps, on Thursday February 17th, between 3 and 6 PM.** These events will mark the jailing of the nation's total drug prisoners exceeding the two-million mark. Bring a candle and a sign stating your opinion. Special attention will be paid to the case of Thurston County resident David Miles, whose family lost both him and their house to the Thurston County Narcotics Taskforce, for the charge of selling a total of a half-pound of pot to an informant.

For more information, you can call (360)-491-4306, or (206)-781-5734, or see www.november.org. Sponsored by the Seattle Hemp Fest and the November Coalition.

The Heartsparkle Players

Friday, February 18th

6:30-8:30pm

The Olympia Center, rm 103

The Family Support Center is pleased to announce a FREE performance for parents and their school-aged children. Celebrate family through Playback theatre, storytelling, music and dialogue. Call 754-2629 to reserve a free space for you and your child. The Olympia Child Care Center will be providing free child care for pre-school aged children, but you must pre-register. This event is cosponsored by The Family Support Center and The Olympia Child Care Center.

Briefs, continued

**NW Earth Institute
Community Forum**

**Tuesday, February 22nd at 7:30pm
Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Ave**

Seattle internationally recognized Cecile Andrews, author of the book *The Circle of Simplicity: Return to the Good Life* will speak on "Voluntary Simplicity: Paths Less Traveled" She will have just returned from speaking at the Smithsonian Institution in D.C. on the same topic. For more info call 705-2884.

**Alliance for Public
Transportation Update**

If you have any questions or ideas, please call us at (360)956-9235 or write to us at apt@graffiti.net.

Meetings/Vigils: Our meetings will now be each Saturday from 2 until 4pm at the Bread and Roses Community Kitchen, at State and Cherry Streets in downtown Olympia.

The Free Bus: We are hoping to organize a network of volunteers to provide transportation to people who cannot use IT to get where they need to go. If you'd like to help with this project in any way, call Dave Griffiths at 866-1725.

Forums: We're helping students at South Puget Sound Community College and at the Evergreen State College to organize forums about public transportation at the two schools. For information about the SPSCC forum, contact Varia Grachova, from SPSCC student leadership, at 754-7711 ext. 412. For information about the Evergreen forum, call Drew Dresman at 754-6658.

March/Conference: We're beginning to plan a large march and conference to be held on a Saturday in February. The purpose of the march would be to call on the legislature to provide emergency funding for this year. The conference would bring people together to talk about our visions for public transportation and about strategies for preserving and expanding it in the long term.

**Welfare Rights Organizing
Coalition**

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the **first Monday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

Dance O' Dance 2000.

We will now be seen on (TCTV channel 29) **TUESDAYs** at 4pm and **FRI-DAY** at 8pm. As always, any age, any style, any experience level of dancers are welcome at any time during the broadcast. Call ahead to reserve a spotlight dance and request music: (360) 866-4524 or e-mail to justinb@write.com

We will be celebrating the Martin Luther King jr. holiday weekend and the MP3 revolution. February's episode will be taped **LIVE** on **FRIDAY** February 11th. Please make a note of it for publication and promotion. Valentine's Day will be the major theme. Technicians should arrive at 6pm, Dancers at 7pm. We will gather afterwards to view

our creation.

Please visit the website for a complete listing of dancers and music used throughout the past 30 episodes. Sign the guestbook and forge a link, and I will reciprocate ASAP. <http://www.danceodance.com>

Anti-Globalization News

Other upcoming events that the group is working to help organize for are the following:

**March 25-27: Boston, MA;
Biodeviation Four**

Teach-ins and actions to counter the BIO 2000 conference (a bio-tech conference for the entire biotech industry)

**April 9-17: Washington, DC;
World Bank IMF meetings**

The same groups that organized Seattle want to do the same thing in DC for the World Bank IMF meetings.

May Day Actions: Shut down Wall Street, the Board of Trade in Chicago and the Pacific Stock Exchange in San Francisco.

Mayday 2000 in Olympia

Groups and individuals can start working together to build the Mayday celebrations and resistance in Olympia. Our basic idea is to have a weeklong festival/conference with awareness raising and preparation for an enormous direct action and celebration on May 1st, 2000. On this day hundreds of thousands of people around the world will also be taking creative action.

Come to our meetings and events to get more involved. Our meetings are Sundays at 3:00pm at the Praxis community organizing center, the entrance is located in the alleyway across from Orca Books, behind the fireplace supply store. If you need or can offer a ride to the meetings please call Steve Hughes at 357-4830. To leave us a message or get directions call 236-8859, email: mayday2k@graffiti.net or check our web page at www.mayday2k.org/oly

**Tao Communications
Olympia**

We are looking for fun, creative, innovative individuals with an interest in media/communications to help form a local TAO here in Olympia. If you are not already familiar with TAO and other local affiliated collectives please explore the following website www.tao.ca This should give you a good idea of what a local TAO collective would do in Olympia, what kind of information we would be working with, etc..

Projects of the Olympia collective may include, but not limited to, experimentation and exploration into the following:

- web design/communication
- graphic design
- free community server space
- networking
- email/mailling lists
- micro radio/web radio/web casting
- open source software (such as Linux)
- free computer workshops
- community build-a-computer
- parts exchange
- YOUR IDEAS HERE!

Projects do not have to be limited to computers. Experimentation into all forms of communications is necessary.

Coalition building / working with other Oly groups is encouraged

Please bring your own desires and ideas to the group!!

If you are interested please contact us via phone or email so we can begin to arrange meeting times. Or, contact us for further info. Phone: 709-0561 (ask for Morgen) E-mail: olympia@tao.ca

No More Presente!

Saturday March 11 will conclude the year long radio show Presente! by host and Worker in Progress Wendy Ortiz. Listen to KAOS 89.3 FM for this final show from 6pm-8pm. She will go on to produce interviews and other news programs to be aired on public affairs shows on KAOS. Listen in! To submit announcements for the March 11 show, e-mail to: <wip@olywa.net>

**Essay Contest: "What I
Want Most That Money
Can't Buy"**

More is not always better! Our throw away culture is taking a heavy toll on our environment, and the material possessions we continue to accumulate don't always provide happiness. Per capita, Americans produce twice the amount of garbage as Europeans. It would take four additional Earths to provide the resources needed if everyone lived like most of us. To reverse this trend and preserve finite resources for our children and grandchildren we must shift our consumption patterns. The Olympia Chapter of the NW Earth Institute wants to hear from you about what would make you genuinely happy -- that money can't buy. Our mission is to motivate individuals to examine and transform personal habits, and to accept responsibility for the earth.

So, tell us what makes you happy that doesn't hurt the earth, and enter to win great merchandise or gift certificates from locally-owned Thurston County "earth-friendly" businesses (Harlequin Theater, The Olympia Food Co-op, Batdorf and Bronson, Orca Books, Olympia Film Society, The Olympia Farmers' Market, Bayview and Ralph's Thriftway, Community Sustaining Fund Sound Hours, and Black Lake Organic).

To enter send 4 copies (2-sided) of your double spaced, typed 400-600 word essay to NW Earth Institute Essay Contest, 1011 5th Ave W, Olympia, WA 98502. There will be a winner in each of 2 categories: under age 18 and adult. All work must be original. Entries must be postmarked by April 10, 2000. Include your full name, address, age if under 18, and daytime telephone number. Essays become the property of the NWEI. Essays will be judged on clarity, creativity, and sensitivity to environmental issues by the Board of Directors, Olympia NWEI. If you are under the age of 18 and would like information about also submitting your essay in a national contest with a \$1000 scholarship prize, please indicate this in your entry.

To Urban Onion Workers:

The downtown Olympia restaurant, the URBAN ONION, has a history of labor unrest with its current owners. If you have worked for the Urban Onion and feel you were treated unfairly by them, please e-mail <owa00@hotmail.com> and describe your experience.

Tenant Talk**Just Cause -
We Deserve It!**

by Aline Carton, TU Statewide
Tenant Organizer

Every year, thousands of tenants in good standing all over the state are forced out of their homes because of no cause notices. Because no cause evictions are currently legal, landlords do not have to give a reason to ask a tenant to move. This makes it easier for landlords to illegally retaliate when tenants assert their rights (such as getting needed repairs or organizing for housing improvements) and to illegally discriminate against tenants. We deserve better.

Twenty years ago The Tenants Union won a Just Cause Eviction Ordinance in Seattle. The State landlord tenant law should be amended to protect tenants all around the State from no cause eviction.

Getting a statewide Just Cause Law passed is great for all tenants in Washington State: it strengthens the current law in Seattle, it makes it easier for us as tenants to assert our current legal rights and pass state-wide legislation, and it gives us a chance to keep our homes and build tenant power.

In this upcoming legislative session, January through March 2000, let's start the new millennium with a bang! It may take some time to get it passed, but we've got to tell our legislators that we need Just Cause, and we need it now!

Too many tenants have lost their homes, too many tenants are afraid to ask for repairs, too many tenants hesitate to organize for better housing conditions because their landlord can just give them a 20-day notice to vacate: it's time to demand the right of Just Cause Eviction!

Take action for Just Cause!

* Call the legislative toll free hotline at 1-800-562-6000. Leave a message for your legislators: tell them you are a tenant and you believe all tenants deserve the right of Just Cause Eviction.

* Join the Tenants Union phone tree to make occasional calls to fellow tenants and your legislators.

* Attend Housing Advocacy Day on February 17th at the Capital Dome.

If you have questions or want to be involved in getting this landmark law passed, call the Tenants Union, we want to hear from you: (206) 722-6848 ext.114.

We can all do it together!**Problems with your
landlord?**

Call the Thurston County Tenants Union hotline at (360)357-0615 or come by our monthly public legal clinic on Monday, February 14th at 6pm in the downtown Olympia Library.



WORKS IN PROGRESS

FEBRUARY 2000

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

F R E E

Attacks on Native Sovereignty Continue:

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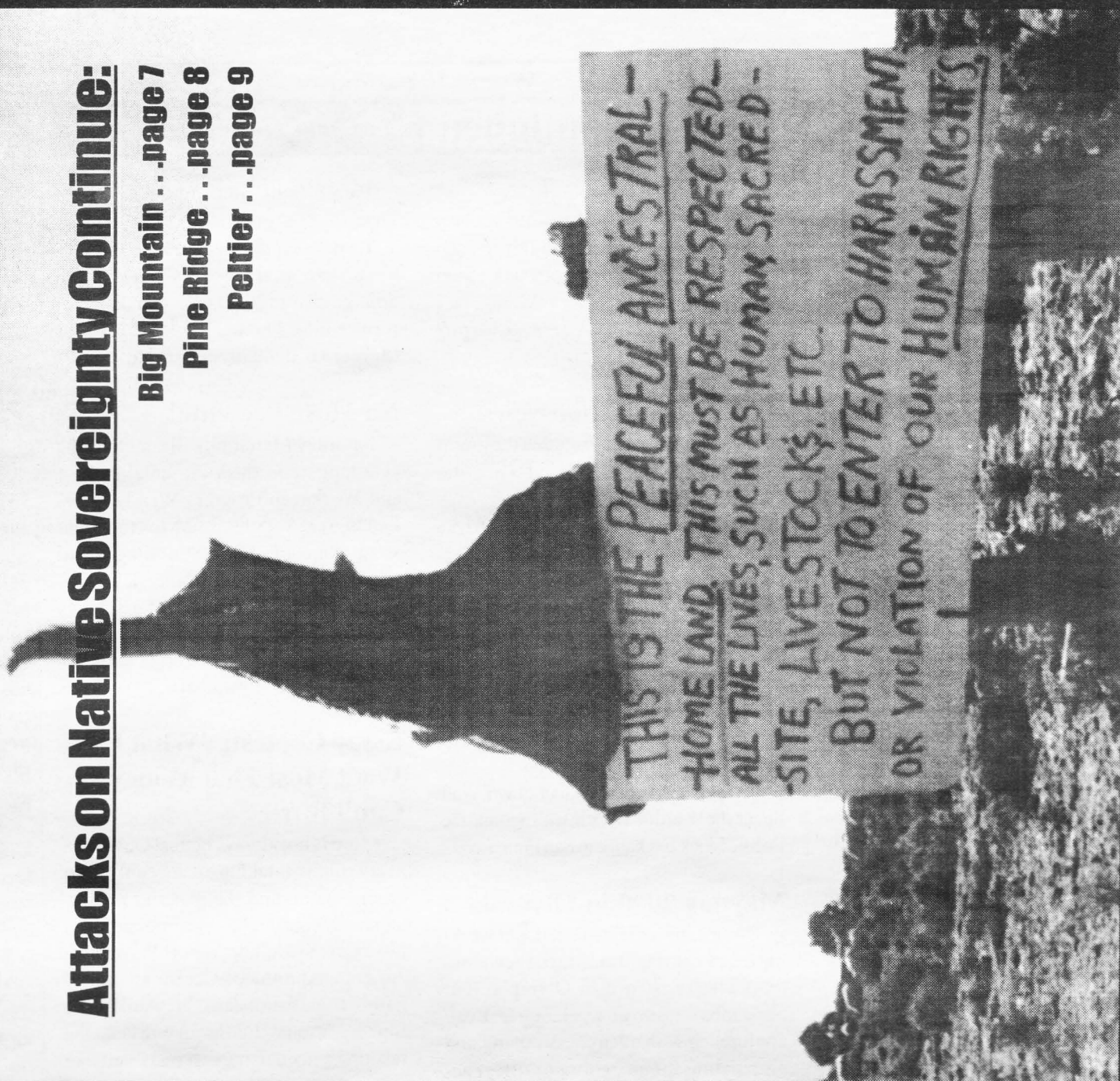


photo by Megan Davis

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Olympia Police
Accountability Study
&
Praise for WROC

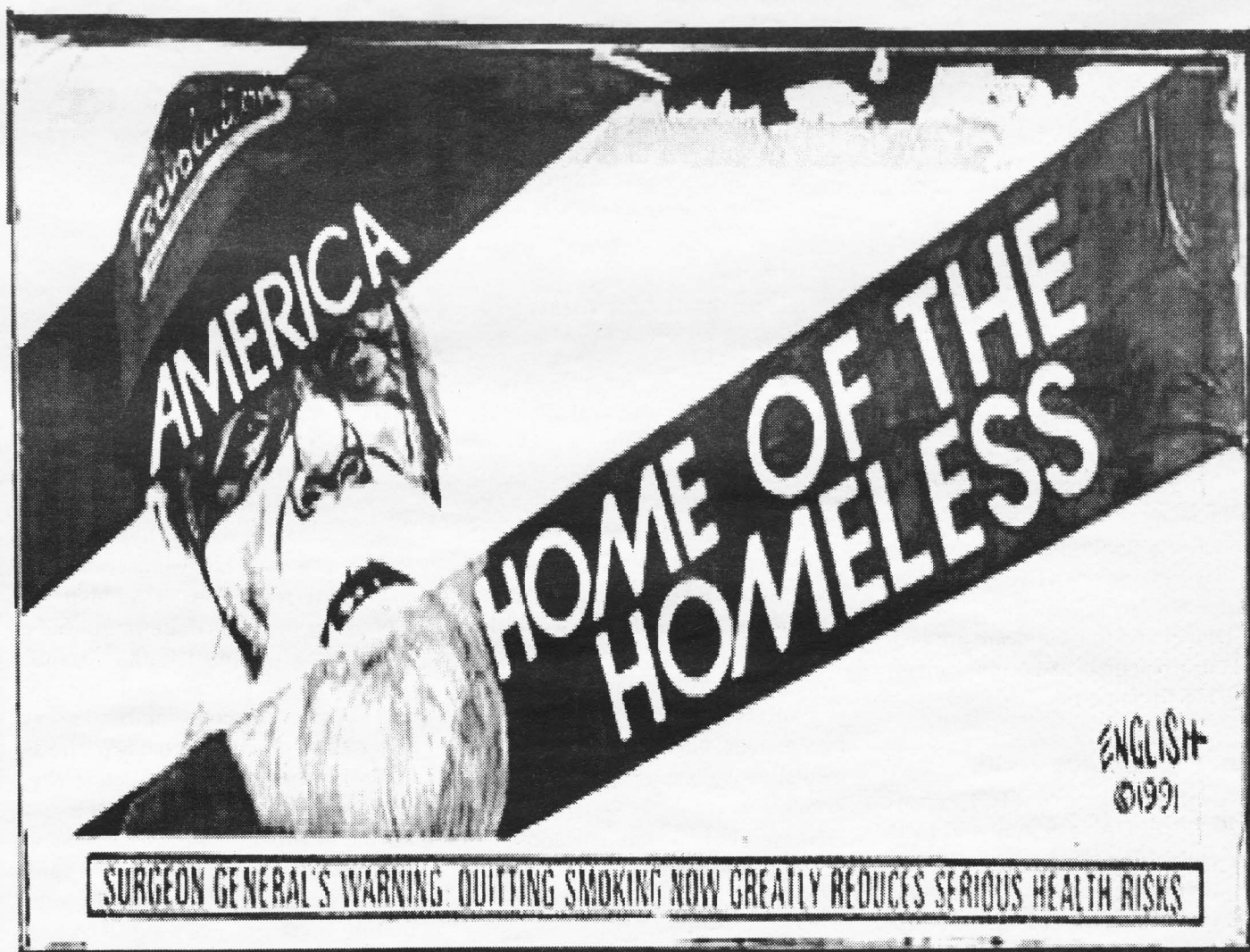
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Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507

